FRIDAY
May 9, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 110

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

RERA NO: PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/070525/007719
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT WWW.RERA.KARNATAKA.GOV.IN

Luxuriously Crafted. Perfectly Located.

LAUNCHING CASAGRAND PROMENADE YELAHANKA

@ just ₹6999/SFT

65+ PREMIUM AMENITIES
13000 SFT GRAND CLUBHOUSE
2.6 ACRES LUSH GREENERY
32000 SFT CENTRAL COURTYARD

THE BEST OF LUXURY & CONNECTIVITY

MALL OF ASIA (10 MINS)
MANYATA TECH PARK (15 MINS)
HEBBAL FLYOVER (15 MINS)
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (20 MINS)

SPACIOUS 3 & 4 BHK RESIDENCES FROM ₹1.3CR - ₹1.89CR*

PRICE BENEFITS

YELAHANKA MARKET PRICE ~~₹10000/SFT~~ | CASAGRAND LAUNCH PRICE ~~₹7399/SFT~~

EARLY BIRD PRICE ₹6999/SFT
(FOR FIRST 25 BOOKINGS ONLY)

TYPE	SIZE	LAUNCH PRICE	EARLY BIRD PRICE
3 BHK	1845 - 2152 SFT	~~₹1.37CR - ₹1.6CR~~	₹1.3CR - ₹1.52CR
4 BHK	2609 - 2670 SFT	~~₹1.93CR - ₹2CR~~	₹1.84CR - ₹1.89CR

TOTAL UNITS - 223 | UNITS SOLD - 83 | AVAILABLE UNITS - 140 | HANDOVER IN 36 MONTHS

CREDAI
95139 00500 | EXCLUSIVE SITE VISIT AVAILABLE
VISIT MODEL HOUSE AT SITE

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

FRIDAY
May 9, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 110

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

'HABEMUS PAPAM'

Robert Prevost elected Pope

First American pontiff of the Catholic Church will go by the name Leo XIV

WORLD» PAGE 22

JUSTICE VARMA CASE

CJI forwards inquiry report to President, PM

NEWS » PAGE 18

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

Eighty years on, 'never again' is sounding hollow

The ghosts of war are returning to Europe

EDITORIAL » PAGE 16

SECURITY THE PRIORITY

Match between Kings and Capitals called off

SPORT » PAGE 23

NEARBY

BJP leader Reddy disqualified from Assembly

BENGALURU
BJP leader Gali Janardhana Reddy, representing Gangavati in the Legislative Assembly, has been disqualified from the House following his conviction by the court of Principal Special Judge for CBI cases in Hyderabad. » Page 9

Karnataka's MMR reduces

BENGALURU
Karnataka's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by six points from 69 per lakh live births in 2018-20 to 63 in 2019-21, indicating that the number of women dying during childbirth has come down significantly. » Page 12

METROPLUS » PAGE 11

India hits back after intercepting Pak. strikes

- India shoots down a 'substantial' number of munitions fired at civilian, military locations
- Military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur targeted late in the evening, but no losses suffered
- India's response in 'same domain', air defence system in Lahore neutralised: Defence Ministry

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Escalating tensions, Pakistan launched drone and missile attacks at various locations along the western borders with India late on Thursday evening, but the Indian armed forces swiftly intercepted them, official sources said.

This came after the Indian air defence systems thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike civilian and military locations in northern and western India with a "substantial" number of missiles and loitering munitions in the early hours of Thursday.

India had hit multiple terror infrastructure facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor early on Wednesday.

India is said to have launched retaliatory strikes late in the evening,

Uncertain times: People at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab, during a blackout on Thursday. PTI

but official confirmation and details are awaited. Blackouts were enforced in several districts in Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan as a preventive measure.

"Military stations of Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur in proximity to the International Boundary, in Jammu & Kashmir targeted by Pakistan using missiles and drones," the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff of the military said in a post on X. "No losses. Threat neutralised by Indian armed forces as per Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) with kinetic and non-kinetic means."

In the evening, the Indian air defence systems also intercepted and destroyed eight missiles fired by Pakistan towards Satwari, Samba, R.S. Pura, and Arnia in Jammu. Drones were also being engaged over Jammu and Pathankot, sources said.

Indian response

As a response to Pakistan's strikes in the early hours of Thursday, the Indian armed forces hit back a few hours later with loitering munitions targeting Pakistani air defence locations.

The Defence Ministry said the "Indian response has been in the same domain with same intensity as Pakistan".

"It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised," the Ministry said in a statement.

"Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," the Ministry added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 18
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 16

At least 100 killed in operation: Rajnath

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

At least 100 people, including several hardcore terrorists, were killed in the nine cross-border strikes made by Indian armed forces on Wednesday morning, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told an all-party meeting that he chaired on Thursday.

All political parties unanimously lauded Operation Sindoor, and reiterated their support to the government amid the heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.

According to multiple leaders who attended the meeting, Mr. Singh told them that the "intent and objectives" of the government have been achieved. He said the government had "no interest in escalating the situation", but if Pakistan took any hasty step, then India would strongly respond.

Mr. Singh informed the leaders that government-run defence manufacturing firms had been told to speed up production.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge expressed his disappointment at the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 18
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 18 & 19

© Inter IKEA Systems B.V. 2000-2025

Scan to know more

Join IKEA Family club for free to avail the offer.

Visit IKEA Nagasandra.

IKEA.in | IKEA app | Shop by 1800 419 4532

IKEA

M BG-BGE

Rohit's Test career — a selfless journey beyond the numbers

The skipper, who bid adieu to the format, adapted well as an opener after starting in the middle-order; he instilled confidence as India looked beyond Pujara-Rahane and walked the talk while taking up responsibility as a leader

R. Kaushik

Were he that sort, Rohit Sharma would put his feet up on his first day as a *former* Test cricketer and reflect on a series of what ifs. What if he hadn't rolled his ankle on the morning of his scheduled Test debut against South Africa in Nagpur in February 2010, a development that obliquely postponed his entry into the five-day game by more than three and a half years? What if he hadn't unleashed 177 and 111 not out in his first two Test innings, knocks that were subliminally brilliant and yet raised such unjustified expectations that he was always chasing his tail?

What if he had shown greater consistency and been treated with greater quality of opportunities in Test cricket? What if, just when he was beginning to find a second wind in 2016 when Anil Kumble was the head coach, he hadn't picked up a terrible thigh injury? What if Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri had seen the potential in him as an opener (like Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Duncan Fletcher had done in limited-overs internationals in January 2013) and elevated him to the top of the batting tree far earlier than October 2019? What if...?

But Rohit Sharma isn't that sort, thankfully. He's the kind of person who has always seen – and will continue to see – the glass as half-full. He will have regrets, of course (who doesn't?), but they will neither weigh him down nor send him into a morass of self-pity and recrimination. Rohit will concede that he could and should have had a more fulfilling Test career, but he will also tell you that he will take 4,301 runs and an average of 40.57 from 67 appearances gladly, that he is thrilled to bits that India won every one of the 12 games in which he topped 100.

Exactly a week after turning 38, Rohit called time on his red-ball career through a social media post, the preferred mode of significant announcements for several of India's high-profile cricketers. A more street-smart individual might have put off that call to a later date, given that the talk of the town for all of Wednesday was Operation Sindoor launched by the Indian armed forces, but the Mumbaikar has seldom gone out of his way to court attention or play the PR game. He is the classic example of following his heart and once he knew that his time had come, there was no second thought, no manipulating the system, no cherry-picking a time of convenience to let his decision be known to the larger cricketing family.

Rohit's retirement from the most demanding format of the game surely has its genesis in the developments of the last seven months. At the beginning of the international home season in September, it was almost taken for granted that India would contest the final of the World Test Championship for a third consecutive cycle. Five Tests were pencilled in in their own backyard - two against Bangladesh, followed by three against New Zealand, who hadn't won a Test in India for 35 years. Barring the unforeseen, five wins out of five would ease India's path to the title round heading into a five-match showdown Down Under for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

When Bangladesh were swatted aside 2-0, those expectations were firmed up even more. In Chennai in the first Test, pushed into a corner at 144 for six, India found batting heroes in spinning all-rounders R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. When rain and inadequate drainage/covers lopped off a large chunk of play in the second Test in Kanpur, Rohit's India turned a meandering contest into a spectacular triumph, scoring at more than eight runs an over in their first innings to make up for lost time and pull off a special victory.

New Zealand came to India with a sense of awe, if not dread. Their spin consultant, Rangana Herath, acknowledged a month and a half after the most sensational coup that the Kiwis' first aim was to avoid a hammering, see if they could compete on even terms, maybe sneak in one victory, at best. But India threw them a lifeline in the first Test in Bengaluru when, despite the loss of the first day to rain and the pitch sweating under the covers for four days in a row, they chose to bat and were rolled over for 46, comfortably their lowest total in a home Test.

Bold, unprecedented

At the end of that day's play, which New Zealand finished on 180 for three, Rohit put in an appearance at the press conference. It was unusual, to say the least. Rohit isn't a huge fan of press dos, though he has never shied away from that responsibility which comes with the tag of the team's captain. But this evening, he volunteered to talk to the media and didn't mince words. He didn't hide behind platitudes and excuses, he didn't hem and haw. Instead, he took full and complete responsibility for the call to bat first. He admitted to an error in judgement but was quick to point out that his team should not be defined by the three hours of madness at the Chinnaswamy. It was bold, unprecedented in the annals of Indian cricket where captains have basked in glory and allowed others to carry the can in times of strife.

As if to reiterate the wisdom of his words, Rohit slammed 52 off 63 in India's second innings, which rocketed to 408 for three in 84 overs. Despite their commanding first-innings lead of 356, New Zealand were running scared - and no, we are not exaggerating - but the second new ball triggered an extraordinary collapse as India lost their last seven wickets for 54, and eventually the Test by eight wickets. That was the start of a nightmarish run for Rohit and his team.

That second-innings 52 was Rohit's only half-century of the season, in eight Tests. The Bengaluru loss was the first of six, also in eight Tests, for the Indians, who thus emphatically played themselves out of the race for a spot in the WTC final. New Zealand's 3-0 sweep was without parallel; Rohit became the first captain to lose all matches in a series of more than two Tests at home as India conceded a series in their own turf for the first time since December 2012.

Things went from bad to worse in Australia. In Rohit's paternity-leave absence in Perth, Jasprit Bumrah led his side to a terrific victory in the first Test at the Optus, helped by a 201-run opening stand in the second innings between Rohit's long-standing partner Yashasvi Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul, the yo-yoing hero. When Rohit joined the team for the day-night Test in Adelaide, he said the choice was clear - that Jaiswal and Rahul would continue to open, that he would bat in the middle order even though it wasn't best for him but it was what was best for the team.

Rohit hadn't not opened since October 2019, courted failure in Adelaide and then Brisbane, returned to open in Melbourne with little success and sat himself out of the final Test in Sydney - again, something that had never happened in Indian cricket.

This string of individual and collective failures, allied with advancing years, greater family commitments (he now has two young kids, the younger one less than six months old) and the realisation that it was time for the team to look onward and upward must have influenced his decision to retire even though a five-Test tour of England is exactly six weeks away. It was in England, in 2021, that Rohit's transformation as an 'orthodox' Test opener was complete.

In India, he had filled his boots against the brand-new red ball, batting with freedom and authority while making twin hundreds (in Visakhapatnam against South Africa) in his first Test at the top of the order and following it up with a double two Tests later. But in England, he couldn't afford to hit through the line, not with the Dukes behaving crazily (somehow, in these days of Bazball, it doesn't anymore) and England possessing a quality pace attack.

In a pre-series camp in Durham, Rohit spent hours perfecting the art of leaving the ball outside off, cocking his wrists so that his hands didn't get ahead of him to the extent that the wrists started to hurt badly. He was determined to prove to himself that he might have been an accidental Test opener, but that he could be an accomplished one too. His adaptability manifested itself in numerous punchy opening salvos alongside Rahul and he brought up his maiden overseas ton at The Oval - with a six, no less - to reveal a steel to his character and a resolve and discipline that, unfairly, he had seldom been credited with.

India's all-format captain

Less than two and a half years after his resurrection in the five-day game as an opener, Rohit became India's all-format captain. At the time of his retirement, he is India's second most successful Test leader, with 12 wins from 24 outings (only Kohli boasts a better win percentage) but more than that, Rohit should take pride in having overseen a tricky transitional phase alongside head coach Rahul Dravid, a period during which India severed links with seasoned campaigners Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane with an eye on the future.

Rohit's remarkable transition from misfiring/underachieving middle-order Test batter to a voracious run-gatherer (until the last few months) in the garb of an opener is matched for impact only by his tactical and leadership skills, and the unique ability to instil belief, confidence and a sense of belonging in his younger colleagues, of whom several cut their teeth in Test cricket in the last year and a half. On their own, his Test numbers might appear only passable, but as they say, statistics tell only half the tale. At best.

K. MURALI KUMAR

THE GIST

- Rohit will concede that he could, and should, have had a more fulfilling Test career, but he will also tell you that he will take 4,301 runs and an average of 40.57 from 67 appearances
- In a pre-series camp in Durham, Rohit spent hours perfecting the art of leaving the ball outside off. His adaptability manifested itself in numerous punchy opening salvos alongside Rahul and he brought up his maiden overseas ton at The Oval
- It was in England, in 2021, that Rohit's transformation as an 'orthodox' Test opener was complete
- Rohit should take pride in having overseen a tricky transitional phase alongside head coach Dravid, a period during which India severed links with seasoned campaigners Pujara and Rahane with an eye on the future

LAUNCHING
CASAGRAND PROMENADE
YELAHANKA

SPACIOUS 3 & 4 BHK RESIDENCES

₹1.3CR - ₹1.89CR*

THOUGHTFULLY CURATED MODERN AMENITIES FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

65+
WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES

Outdoor Amenities
- Walking / Jogging Track
- Cycling Track
- Pergola Seating Gallery
- Senior Citizen Plaza & More

Convenience
- Dormitory
- Car Charging Bay
- Car Washing Bay
- Air Filling Station

Kid's Play Area
- Skating Rink
- Vertical Playground
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Crèche & More

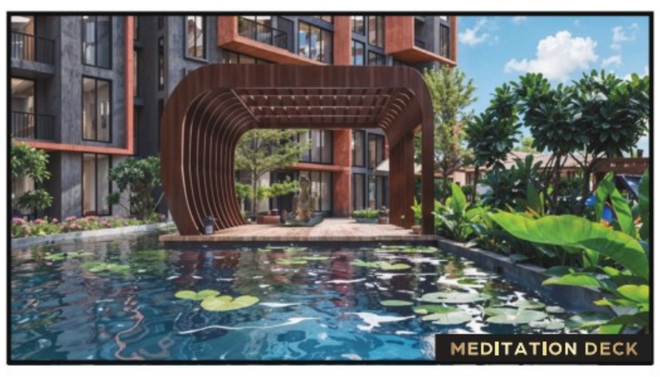
Terrace Amenities
- Sky Cinema
- Terrace Hangout Plaza
- Grilling Pavilion
- Rooftop Café & More

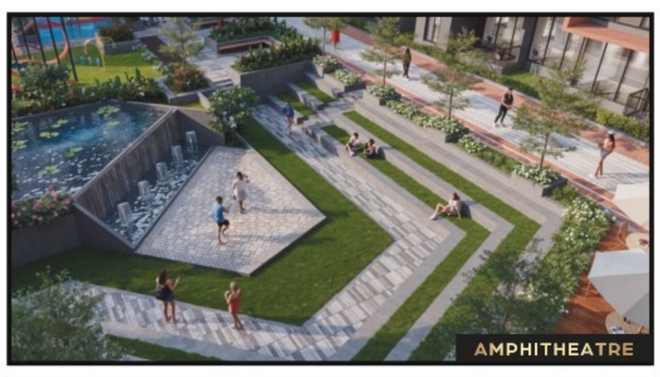
Sports, Fitness & Well-being
- Indoor Gym
- Yoga Deck
- Cricket Practice Net
- Basketball Court & More

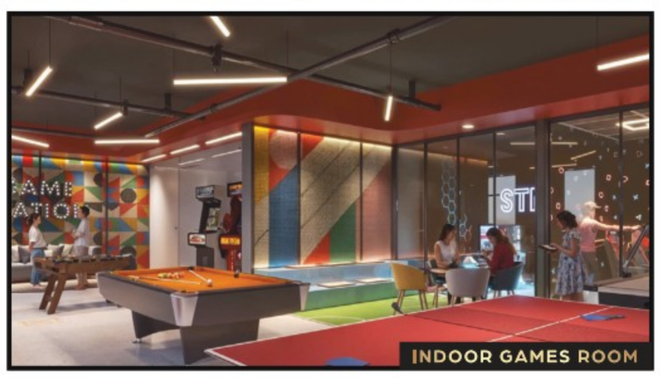
Swimming Pool Amenities
- Adult Pool
- Kid's Pool
- Outdoor Jacuzzi
- Poolside Cabana & More

Indoor Games Room
- TT & Pool Room
- Board Games Room
- Video Game Room

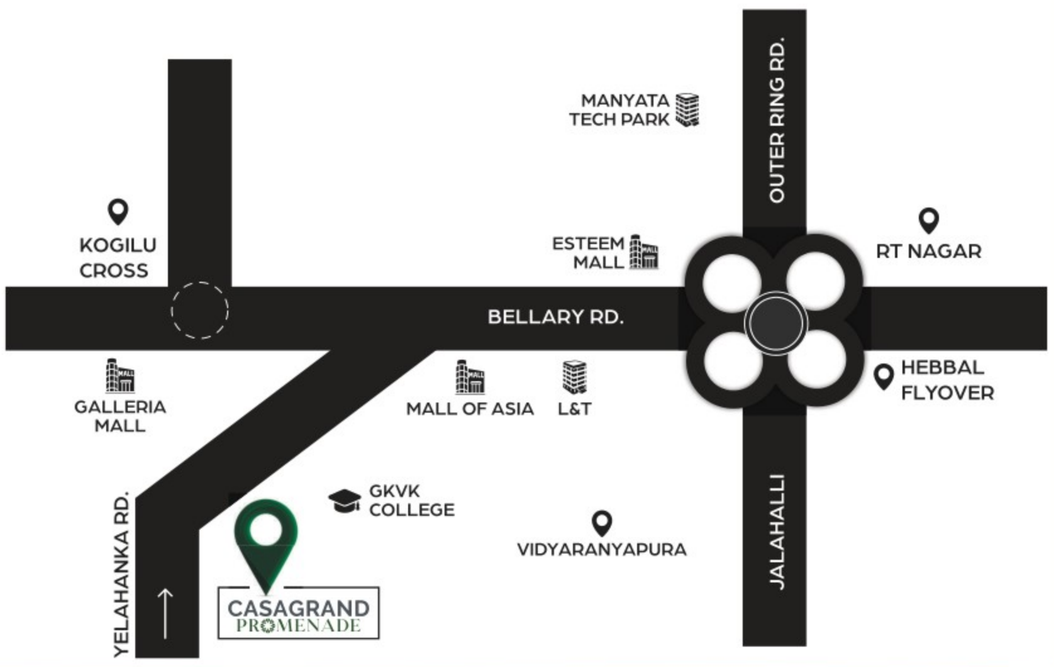
Features & Entertainment
- Multi-purpose Hall With Pantry
- Mini Theatre
- Indoor Co-working Space
- Learning Centre & More







Location Route Map



WHY CASAGRAND?

20 years of real estate excellence
160+ landmark projects
55,000+ happy families
2023 rigorous quality checks
87% on-time delivery
7 cities Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Pune, Delhi & Dubai

2 months of rental assurance
6 months of resale support
8 years warranty & 10 years of community maintenance
75% open area for 2x more light & ventilation
0% space wastage planning for carpet area efficiency
23 global brands used in fittings and finishing materials

CREDAI
95139 00500 | EXCLUSIVE SITE VISIT AVAILABLE
VISIT MODEL HOUSE AT SITE

SCAN TO EXPERIENCE THE VIRTUAL WALK-THROUGH

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

J BG-BGE

NAVODAYA GRAMA VIKASA CHARITABLE TRUST (R.)

KODIALBAIL, MANGALURU - 575 003

PRESIDED BY

DR. M. N. RAJENDRA KUMAR

PRESIDENT, KARNATAKA STATE CO-OP. MARKETING FEDERATION LTD., BENGALURU
PRESIDENT, THE SOUTH CANARA DISTRICT CENTRAL CO-OP. BANK LTD, MANGALURU
FOUNDER, NAVODAYA GRAMA VIKASA CHARITABLE TRUST ®, MANGALURU

25 NAVODAYA SELF-HELP GROUPS SILVER JUBILEE

DATE : 10-05-2025 SATURDAY | TIME: 10.00 A.M.
VENUE : GOLDFINCH CITY, BANGRA KULUR, MANGALURU

SILVER JUBILEE LOGO RELEASING

SRI. THAWAR CHAND GHELOT
His Excellency Hon'ble Governor, Karnataka

SILVER JUBILEE INAUGURATION

SRI. SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government Of Karnataka

DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

SRI. DEVENDRA FADNAVIS
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government Of Maharashtra

BLESSINGS

PARAMAPOOJYA SHREE SHREE VISHWAPRASANNATHEERTHA SWAMIJI
Jagadguru Sri Madhwacharya Maha Samsthana Sri Pejavara Adhokshaja Matha,Udupi.

"SANTHRUPTHI" SOUVENIR RELEASE

SRI. D. K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government Of Karnataka

CO-OPERATIVE FLAG HOISTING

SRI. U.T. KHADER FAREED
Honoble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly & Mla Mangalore

DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS TO BEST NAVODAYA SHG

SRI. PRALHAD V. JOSHI
Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution And New & Renewable Energy, Government Of India

PARAMAPOOJYA RAJASHREE DR. D. VEERENDRA HEGGADE
Dharmaadhikari, Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala. And Member Of Rajya Sabha

CHIEF GUESTS

SRI K. N. RAJANNA
Hon'ble Minister Of Co-Operation, Government Of Karnataka

DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY
Hon'ble Ex Chief Minister, Government Of Karnataka

SRI DINESH GUNDU RAO
Hon'ble Minister Of Health And Family Welfare & District In-Charge Minister DK

SMT. LAKSHMI HEBBALKAR
Hon'ble Minister Of Women & Child Development And District In-Charge Minister, Udupi

SRI SHIVANAND PATIL
Hon'ble Minister Of Textiles, Sugarcane Development & Directorate Of Sugar, Agricultural Marketing, Karnataka

SRI R. B. TIMMAPUR
Hon'ble Minister Of Excise, Government Of Karnataka

SRI LAXMAN SANGAPPA SAVADI
Hon'ble Ex Deputy Chief Minister, Ex Minister Of Co-Operation, Government Of Karnataka & Mla Athani Constituency

SRI G. T. DEVEGOWDA
President, Karnataka State Co-Op. Federation Ltd, Bengaluru, Hon'ble Ex Minister & Mla Chamundeshwari

DR. UDAI SHANKER AWASTHI
Managing Director, Iffco, New Delhi

SRI ARBAIL SHIVARAM HEBBAR
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka & Mla Yellapur

SRI V. SUNIL KUMAR
Ex-Minister Government Of Karnataka & Mla Karkala

SRI MURUGESH R. NIRANI
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI B. Y. RAGHAVENDRA
Mp Shimoga Assembly Constituency

SRI KOTA SRINIVAS POOJARY
MP Udupi-Chikmagalur Assembly Constituency

SRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA
MP Dakshina Kannada Assembly Constituency

DR. K. PRAKASH SHETTY
Chief Managing Director, MRJ Group

SRI BELLI PRAKASH
President, The Karnataka State Co-Op. Apex Bank Ltd, Bengaluru

SRI K. JAYAVARMA BALLAL
MD, Ballal Group Of Hotels

CHIEF GUESTS

SRI B. RAMANATH RAI
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI PROF. P. L. DHARMA
Vice- Chancellor, Mangaluru University

SRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI S. ANGARA
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI K. JAYAPRAKASH HEGDE
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI K. PRATHAPACHANDRA SHETTY
Ex Chairman Karnataka Legislative Council

SRI J. R. LOBO
Ex Mla Mangalore South Assembly Constituency

SRI SANJEEV MATANDOOR
Ex Mla Puttur Assembly Constituency

SRI MITHUN M. RAI
General Secretary Kpcc

SRI PADMARAJ R. POOJARY
President, Guru Beladingalu Foundation, Mangalore

SRI SATHISH KUMPALA
President, Bharathiya Janatha Party, D.K.

SRI UDAYA KUMAR SHETTY
President, Udayakrishna Charitable Trust ® Karkala

SRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL
Ex Mp Dakshina Kannada Assembly Constituency

DR. M. MOHAN ALVA
President, Alva's Education Foundation, Moodubidire

SRI KISHORE ALVA
President, Adani Group

NADOJA DR. G. SHANKAR
Promoter, G. Shankar Family Trust ®,Udupi

SRI ABHAYACHANDRA JAIN
Ex Minister Government Of Karnataka

SRI AIKALA HARISH SHETTY
President, Federation Of World Bunt's Associations (R) Mangaluru

SRI GOPAL POOJARY
Ex Mla Byndoor Assembly Constituency

DR. U. T. IFTHIKAR ALI
Chairman, Karnataka State Allied & Healthcare Council

SRI HARISH KUMAR
President, National Congress Party, D.K.

SRI PRASAD KANCHAN
Entrepreneur, Udupi

SRI RAKSHITH SHIVARAM
Entrepreneur, Belthangady

SRI DINESH HEGDE M
Entrepreneur, Kundapura

SRI INAYATH ALI
Entrepreneur, Mangalore

SRI D. VEDAVYAS KAMATH
Mla Mangalore South Assembly Constituency

DR. BHARATH SHETTY Y
Mla Mangalore North Assembly Constituency

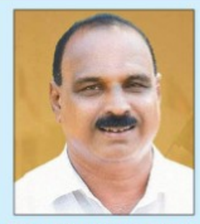
SRI UMANATH A. KOTIAN
Mla Mulki-Moodabidri Assembly Constituency

SRI RAJESH NAIK U
Mla Bantwal Assembly Constituency

SRI HARISH POONJA
Mla Belthangady Assembly Constituency

SRI ASHOK KUMAR RAI
Mla Puttur Assembly Constituency

KUMARI BHAGEERATHI MURULYA
Mla Sullia Assembly Constituency



SRI A. KIRAN KUMAR KODGI
Mla Kundapura Assembly Constituency

SRI YASHPAL A. SUVARNA
Mla Udupi Assembly Constituency

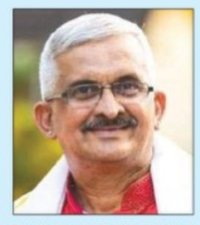
SRI GURUME SURESH SHETTY
Mla Kaup Assembly Constituency

SRI GURURAJ SHETTY GANTIHOLI
Mla Byndoor Assembly Constituency

SRI S. L. BHOJEGOWDA
Member Of Kamataka Legislative Council

SRI IVAN D'SOUZA
Member Of Kamataka Legislative Council

SRI MANJUNATH BHANDARY
Member Of Kamataka Legislative Council



SRI PRATHAP SIMHA NAYAK K
Member Of Kamataka Legislative Council

SRI KISHOR KUMAR
Member Of Kamataka Legislative Council

SPECIAL INVITEES

• SRI MAJOR MANIVANNAN P IAS, Principle Secretary Co-Operation Department, Government Of Karnataka, • SRI T. H. M. KUMAR IAS, Registrar Of Co-Operative Societies In Karnataka Bengaluru
• SRI MULLAI MUHILAN M. P IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada District • DR. K. VIDYA KUMARI IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Udupi District
• SRI AMITH SINGH IPS, Dig Western Range • SRI ANUPAM AGARWAL IPS, Commissioner Of Police, Mangalore
• SRI YATHISH N IPS, Superintendent Of Police, Mangalore • SRI ARUN K IPS, Superintendent Of Police, Udupi • SRI RAVICHANDRA NAIK, Commissioner, Mangalore City Corporation

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

SRI AIKALABHAVA DEVIPRASAD SHETTY BELAPU
PRESIDENT

SRI SHASHIKUMAR RAI BALYOTTU
SECRETARY

SRI BHASKAR S. KOTIAN IRVATTHURU
CHIEF SECRETARY

SRI MEGHARAJ R. JAIN
SMT. HEMALATHA HEGDE
SRI SUNIL KUMAR BAJAGOLI
TRUSTEES

SMT. POORNIMA SHETTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NAVODAYA SELF-HELP GROUPS SILVER JUBILEE COMMITTEE - 2025

NAVODAYA GRAMA VIKASA CHARITABLE TRUST ®, MANGALURU

Public health in India strained by flawed policy, weak training

Master of Public Health curricula across the country are as fragmented as public health governance structure; despite training, graduates face systemic invisibility; without a technically equipped public health workforce, India's response to emerging challenges will remain reactive and weak

C. Aravinda

In focus: In India, public health is often reduced to a 'State subject' in policy circles, as mentioned in the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution. This misses the field's complexity, scope, and inter-sectoral nature. G.N. RAO

World Health Day 2025, which fell on April 7, carried the theme 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Future' a message of promise. Yet for India, this future is tethered to a present riddled with structural lapses in public health preparedness. At the heart of this fragmentation lies a lesser-examined but critical fault line: the state of public health and its education in India, including the design and delivery of the Master of Public Health (MPH) programmes.

A common misconception about public health is that it is a sub-domain of medicine, primarily involving doctors and hospitals. But that is a narrow and incomplete view. Public health is both an art and a science. It combines the best of medical sciences, engineering solutions, and social science understanding. As a science, it is grounded in medical knowledge (like the germ theory of disease), engineering principles (such as water purification and sewage systems), and social sciences (which explain how poverty shapes health outcomes). It is the art of persuasion, communication, and creative problem-solving – the ability to design campaigns, shift behaviours, and build trust within communities. This blend of disciplines makes public health a field unto itself.

How public health works in India

In India, public health is often reduced to a 'State subject' in policy circles, as mentioned in the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution. This misses the field's complexity, scope, and inter-sectoral nature. A deeper reading of the Constitution shows that public health responsibilities are scattered across the State, Union, and Concurrent Lists**.** For example, drug safety, pollution control, family planning and food safety fall under the Concurrent List, where both State and Union governments can legislate. Meanwhile, critical areas like quarantine, international health regulations, and Census and vital statistics belong to the Union List. Even in States, public health is often restricted to primary care and health education.

This results in fragmented public health governance between different layers of government, without a coherent chain of command or common vision. This scattering is not accidental but a Colonial inheritance. India maladapted much of its health structure from the British system – a unitary state – while forming a federal nation.

Even within States, public health responsibilities remain split. Public health was never housed within a clear executive arm. Within the executive branch, it was further divided between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Resources, Food Safety Departments, and local bodies. Immunisation and disease control are managed by the departments of public health and preventive medicine, while food safety falls under a separate Commissionerate, and water and sanitation are handled by public works departments or municipal boards. There is little synergy, and limited accountability.

Public health in India was never positioned as a cohesive national agenda. This disjointedness has consequences. When public health is handled in silos, it becomes reactive. For example, we fight tobacco-related cancers while subsidising tobacco cultivation. The Indian Council of Medical Research combats disease against tobacco, yet the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Tobacco Research Institute enhances tobacco yield. This contradiction in vision, where one hand heals and the other harms, reveals the urgent need for unified, coherent public health governance – and education.

Public health education

Master of Public Health (MPH) curricula across India are as fragmented as the public health governance structure. Just as public health responsibilities are scattered across multiple Ministries and Constitutional lists, its educational mandate is dispersed across institutions without national coherence or standardisation. The MPH is the foundational training ground for future epidemiologists, public health engineers, food safety officers, behavioural scientists, and health economists. Yet it operates in silos, mirroring the very dysfunctions that plague our health system. The training required to serve such a vision must be robustly interdisciplinary. Unfortunately, India's MPH courses fall short of this ideal.

One of the first hurdles is the inconsistent eligibility criteria for MPH programmes.

Some universities restrict entry to those from medical, dental, or allied health backgrounds, while others accept graduates from any discipline. The intention of inclusivity in the latter is welcome, but this diversity becomes a challenge without a standard baseline curriculum or foundational modules. The courses vary widely – some are overly theoretical, others heavily managerial, but few provide hands-on experience or technical depth. This lack of standardisation leads to significant disparities in student capabilities, even among those holding the same degree.

Crucial domains of public health are often completely omitted or superficially addressed. Public health engineering, which includes designing and maintaining systems for water purification, waste disposal, and drainage – the backbone of disease prevention – receives minimal attention. Similarly, nutrition is often taught as a static concept, with little integration of food processing, food handling practices, or food technology, all of which are essential to ensure food safety and preventing contamination-related diseases. India's regulatory framework for food safety may be housed under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), but the skills to interpret and implement its policies are not systematically included in MPH curricula.

Public health is both an art and a science. It combines the best of medical sciences, engineering solutions, and social science understanding. This blend of disciplines makes public health a field unto itself

The absence of training in behavioural sciences is equally troubling. Understanding human behaviour is key to changing health practices, whether it is encouraging vaccine uptake, reducing tobacco consumption, or improving sanitation habits. While some institutions may offer modules on health communication, few delve into the depths of behavioural change theories, psychology, or social marketing that are necessary for large-scale public health impact. Health technology assessment, an emerging field that evaluates the cost-effectiveness and impact of health interventions, is taught in only a handful of institutions, limiting our capacity to make evidence-informed policy decisions at scale.

The two-year MPH programme, in its current form, is also under strain from the breadth of what it tries to accomplish. Expecting mastery across epidemiology, health policy, behavioural science, health economics, and operational research within this time frame is unrealistic, especially with thesis requirements and field postings. This compressed format often reduces complex subjects to superficial overviews, doing injustice to the students and to the field. A relook at the programme duration, perhaps introducing modular training with exit and entry flexibility, may be essential.

Systemic invisibility

Despite completing training, MPH graduates in India face systemic invisibility. There is no structured public health cadre across most States that values the technical skillset of MPH professionals as envisioned in National Health Policy 2017. As a result, most find employment in short-term projects, NGOs, or data-entry roles in health departments – positions that fail to utilise their full potential.

Without a technically equipped public health workforce, our response to emerging challenges – be it antimicrobial resistance, climate-induced diseases, or future pandemics – will remain reactive and weak.

Public health, like national security, cannot be an afterthought. It must be proactively nurtured. India must begin by fixing its public health education ecosystem. We need a nationally coordinated curriculum that sets minimum standards while allowing for regional adaptation. Our MPH programmes must produce graduate professionals who can engage with epidemiological data, assess health technologies, lead disease surveillance units, and advise policymakers on environmental and occupational risks.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed are personal. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

SNAPSHOTS

U.S. launches autism project with Medicare, Medicaid data

The U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have partnered to research the causes of the autism spectrum disorder, creating a database of autism-diagnosed Medicare and Medicaid enrollees, the agencies said earlier this week. The partnership will help NIH build a real-world data platform enabling advanced research across claims data, electronic medical records, and wearable health-monitoring devices. It will first focus on research around the root causes of autism and, in the long term, link data for research on other chronic conditions. It said the project will comply with privacy laws. REUTERS

Obesity could be symptom of long COVID, researchers find

Obesity or being overweight could be a symptom of long COVID with researchers finding a significant link between excess weight, and persistent neurological and mental health conditions in individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 infection. The researchers, including those from the University of Brasília, Brazil, show that among the nearly 1.4 lakh people involved in the 18 studies, being overweight had a significant link with persistent depression, headache, memory problems and sleep disturbances. The findings of the study were published in journal PLOS *One*. PTI

Europe reviews Valneva's chikungunya vaccine

The European Union's health regulator said this week that it was reviewing French drugmaker Valneva's chikungunya vaccine after reports of serious side effects in older adults. The European Medicines Agency's safety committee has temporarily suspended the use of the vaccine, branded as Ixchiq, in adults aged 65 and older. The company said it will continue to monitor the reported events and cooperate with health authorities. About 17 serious adverse events, including two deaths, have been reported so far globally in people aged between 62 and 89 who had received the vaccine, the agency said. The exact cause of the events and their relationship with the vaccine have not yet been determined, it said. REUTERS

Why did T.N. take the decision to ban mayonnaise made from raw eggs?

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Last month, Tamil Nadu became the third State in the country after Kerala and Telangana to ban mayonnaise prepared from raw eggs for a year.

This decision, according to the State's Food Safety Department, was in the interest of public health. Mayonnaise made of raw eggs is a high-risk food as it carries a risk of food poisoning, especially from Salmonella bacteria, Salmonella typhimurium, Salmonella enteritidis, Escherichia coli, and Listeria monocytogenes.

A number of food business operators use raw egg for preparation of mayonnaise, and improper preparation and storage facilitates contamination by microorganisms create a public health risk, the notification said. Food safety officials clarified that only mayonnaise made from raw eggs was banned and not mayonnaise made of pasteurised eggs and vegetarian mayonnaise.

A. G. Saranya Gayathiri, managing director, Parikshan FSS Pvt Ltd says: "Spoiled eggs can produce many kinds of diseases. Normally, if an egg is broken, experts say that it should be processed within 20 minutes. It is that much highly perishable and a high risk item. In the preparation of mayonnaise using egg, it is not a hot food process as we use raw eggs. Once it is prepared, it should be used immediately or stored at a temperature of 0-5 C. Without proper awareness, food handlers keep it at room temperature, and so the chances of food spoilage becomes very high. That is why the government banned the product."

Taking precautions: Mayonnaise made of raw eggs is a high-risk food as it carries a risk of food poisoning. GETTY IMAGES

Kalarani. R, dietician, Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, calls it a welcome move. "Microbial contamination remains a significant concern when raw eggs are involved, particularly when products are prepared in unhygienic environments or stored improperly. Unrefrigerated mayonnaise can become a breeding ground for harmful bacteria such as Salmonella, which poses serious health risks. Salmonella infection can cause symptoms ranging from diarrhoea, fever, and abdominal cramps to more severe outcomes such as bloody stools, high fever, and even life-threatening complications like bacteremia. These dangers highlight the importance of food safety, especially in products consumed widely across age groups," she says.

Venkatesh Munikrishnan, senior Consultant - Colorectal and Robotic Surgeon, Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, also agrees. "In order to safeguard public health, the government's decision to ban mayonnaise made from raw eggs is both appropriate and essential," he points out.

"A common ingredient in street foods like burgers and shawarmas, contaminated mayonnaise is a major contributor to food-borne illnesses like diarrhoea and nausea. Young people are especially vulnerable because they often eat food from outside without understanding how it is prepared or stored. This ban is an important step toward food safety because Salmonella can contaminate eggs internally before the shell forms," he adds.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

IPL: MLC alleges violations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dinesh Guli Gowda, Congress MLC, has alleged rampant rule violations and irregularities in the conduct of the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches in the city, and has demanded a probe into the sale of tickets on the black market.

Mr. Gowda has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, seeking a probe.

RUNNING Successfully | Only on SATURDAY & SUNDAYS 2 Shows 4pm & 7pm
WORLD FAMOUS MAGICIAN
P.C. SORCAR & His Branded POURUSH
MAGIC SHOW
Venue: TOWN HALL A/c J.C ROAD BENGALURU
FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT : 90089 81243 | FOR ONLINE BOOKING bookmyshow

TONI&GUY essensuals HAIRDRESSING
UNISEX
MOM'S Day
MOM'S Way
UPTO 20% OFF ON SKIN SERVICES
*T&C APPLY
OFFER VALID TILL 31ST MAY 2025
AVAILABLE ONLY AT SELECTED OUTLETS
ACES LAYOUT BROOKFIELD 08049915366 | ANANTH NAGAR 080-4096 7487 | BANASWADI 7892403640 | BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 080-3589 3312 / 88841 63666 | BANASHANKARI 7019506863 | BELGAUM 087480 40488 | BTM LAYOUT 80411 13342 | BAGALAKUNTE 96110 82790 | BATTRAHALLI 8953547728 / 8669178509 | CHANDRA LAYOUT 88840 44420 | CHOKKANAHALLI 89516 20510 | DOMMASANDRA 82967 49126 | HSR LAYOUT 96861 52499 | HOSAPET 9591942294 | HULLIMAVU 89515 68999 | HEGDE NAGAR 8310875820 | HARALUR 81977 80005 | HSR LAYOUT 2 63644 38899 | HORMAVU 89718 49966 | HUSKUR 90351 02269 | JAYANAGAR 97383 08373 | INDIRANAGAR 9739614607 | JP NAGAR 7th PHASE 96115 68499 | KAMMANAHALI 9945304940 | KENGERI 80886 59242 | KOTHANUR 7090940303 | KORAMANGALA 83107 80489 | KAGGADASAPURA 9035068386 | KUVEMPU NAGAR 9113232906 | KADUGODI 9902698677 / 9902690177 | KEMPAPURA 73388 71654 | MANGALURU YEYADI 08-243500484 | NAAGARABHAAVI 98889 22206 | RT NAGAR 8217756792 | SINGANAYAKANAHALLI 80882 65085 | SAHAKAR NAGAR 72049 10402 | VIDYARANYAPURAM 73533 91156 | VAJARAHALLI 72591 62683 | WHITEFIELD 9844444868 | WHITEFIELD ITPL MAIN ROAD 89519 91519 | YELAHANKA 63664 05666
FOR FRANCHISE & BUSINESS ENQUIRY, CALL: +91-91768 40500/97429 57780

THE HINDU GROUP
HEALTHIER CHOICES, HAPPIER LIVES.
The Hindu, in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, presents Healthy India, Happy India - a comprehensive 15-part webinar series to inspire and promote well-being.
JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON
STRESS: SILENT KILLER OF ONE'S HEART
naruvi HOSPITALS Vellore Presents
HEALTHY INDIA HAPPY INDIA
Prevent Illness, Promote Wellness
Powered by THE HINDU
Dr Vinayak Shukla — Senior Consultant, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore
Dr Ray George — Consultant, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore.
Dr Mohammed Jaffer Sherif — Consultant, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore.
Hiba Mariam — Moderator
Sunday, May 11, 2025 | 11:30 AM
E-certificate of participation will be issued to all registrants.
Register at, newsth.live/HIHUIPA or scan the QR code

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients, has negotiated to purchase Schedule property from its owner **Mr. Suresh C A Reddy, s/o. Late. C Adimurthi Reddy,** residing at No.428, 17th Main, F Block, Sahakanagar, Bangaloe-560 092. The said owner has represented to our clients that he is the absolute owner and that he has not created any other mortgage on the Schedule property.

People at large and all the concerned, private individuals, government/ semi-government institutions / bodies / authorities, if has got any right, title, interest, or share in Schedule property or anybody who has objection for the aforesaid transaction are herewith publicly informed to raise their objection/s in writing along with supportive documents to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN [15] DAYS** from publication of this Public Notice. If the same are not received in writing along with supportive documents by the undersigned within **FIFTEEN [15] DAYS** from publication of this public Notice, then it will be construed that the title to the said property is clear and that all such concerned have waived their rights and all such concerned shall be estopped from raising any objections thereafter and that we shall proceed thereafter further in the execution of the Sale Deed/s or such agreements and all such persons shall be estopped from raising any objections to such transaction thereinafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the House property bearing Municipal **No.14,** PID No. 98-85-14, ESwathu Dhakale No.1662726, Ward No.98, **Ganganagar, 4th Cross, CPV Block, Gangenahalli (Ganganagar), Bangalore,** Old No. 28, Formed out of Sy No.16, Gangenahalli, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet; North to South 54 feet; in all admeasuring a total extent of **1620 square feet or 150.50286 Sq. Mtrs** together with building measuring about 92.903 Sq. Mtrs standing thereon and bounded on :

East By : Site No.29; West By : Site No.27; North By : 12 Feet Road; South By : 5 Feet Conservancy;

SAAN Law Associates
S.M. ANEES AHAMED
Advocates
No.4 (10/2), G. Floor, West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore-560 002,
saanlawassociates@gmail.com
M : 98450 08707 / 9341718958
Place: Bangalore Date: 09/05/2025

last 3 days
go swadeshi by gocoop
summer edit
EXHIBITION & SALE
Celebrate the rich craft traditions of India
Shop directly from 35+ weavers & artisans
Srinivasa Sagara Kalyana Mantapa
10th Main Road, T Mariappa Rd, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
7th to 11th May
11am - 8pm
sarees | fabrics | apparel | home | accessories
explore www.goswadeshi.in

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ 'ಸರಳ ಕಾವೇರಿ'
ಮನೆಬಾಗಿಲಿಗೆ 'ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ'
ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ — ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
09 ಮೇ 2025
ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ,
ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ:
ಗ್ರ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಸ್ಟೆಪ್ಸ್ ಮುಂಭಾಗ,
ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧ ಆವರಣ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ಬಿಐಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಿತ ಶುದ್ಧ ನೀರು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆ ಬಾಗಿಲಿಗೆ
ಜಲವೇ ಜೀವ
ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ — ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ರಿಜ್ವಾನ್ ಅರ್ಷದ್ — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರುಗಳು, ಸಂಸದರು, ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳು, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಚುನಾಯಿತ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.
ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ
'ಸರಳ ಕಾವೇರಿ'
• ನೀರಿನ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಶುಲ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ 20% ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಹೊಸ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ. ಉಳಿಕೆ 80% ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬಡ್ಡಿದರದಲ್ಲಿ 12 ಕಂತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ.
• ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಲ್ ಫೇರ್ ಅಸೋಸಿಯೇಷನ್/ ಮನೆಗಳ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು 2 ತಿಂಗಳು ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಿಕೆ.
'ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ'
• ಮಹಾನಗರಿಯ ಜನತೆಗೆ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಮನೆಬಾಗಿಲಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
• ಬಿಐಎಸ್ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಶುದ್ಧ ಹಾಗೂ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಸಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸರಿಯಾದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ.
• ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸ್ನೇಹಿ ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ರಚನೆ -ಆನ್ ಡಿಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕರ್ ನೀರು ಬುಕ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ
ತುಷಾರ್ ಗಿರಿ ನಾಥ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. — ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಡಾ. ರಾಮ್ ಪ್ರಸಾತ್ ಮನೋಹರ್ ವಿ., ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. — ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಲಮಂಡಳಿ
ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಕಾವೇರಿ ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕ್ಯೂಆರ್ ಕೋಡ್ ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿ
"ನೀರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಿ, ಭವಿಷ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿ"

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Applications for registration of term 'Operation Sindoor'

6 After India's retaliation, Reliance India Ltd. was the first to file the trademark application for the term under trademark Class 41 which covers services like education and entertainment. Besides RIL, other applicants — Mukesh Chetram Agrawal, Group Captain (retired) Kamal Singh Oberh, Alok Kothari, Jayaraj T. and Uttam — have also sought registering the term. PTI

Number of UNRWA schools shut down in East Jerusalem

6 Israel permanently closed six U.N. schools in east Jerusalem on Thursday, forcing Palestinian students to leave early and throwing the education of over 800 others into question. The orders come after Israel banned UNRWA from operating on its soil earlier this year. UNRWA is the main provider of education and health care to Palestinian refugees across east Jerusalem. AP

India's foodgrain production target for the 2025-26 crop year

354.64 In million tonnes. India is targeting 354.64 million tonnes of foodgrain production in the 2025-26 crop year on the forecast of better monsoon rains. The government had set a target of 341.55 million tonnes for the current 2024-25 crop year. Data shows production has reached 330.92 million tonnes. PTI

Amount of annual health aid to Zambia to be cut by the U.S.

50 in $ million. The United States will cut $50 million in annual medical funding to Zambia over its weak response to the alleged theft and sale of donated drugs meant to be provided for free, its ambassador said on Thursday. The debt-ridden southern African nation of 21 million people is heavily reliant on foreign aid. AFP

Odisha discom notices for illegal constructions

1229 In a step towards ensuring public safety, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited issued 1,229 notices to individuals and establishments for alleged unauthorised constructions near overhead electricity distribution lines. The maximum number of notices of 655 were served in Ganjam. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Is academic freedom a made-up concept?

In the backdrop of Trump's moves on Ivy League institutions in America, a look at the scope and limitations of freedom on campus, and why it's not always easy with institutions being pulled in different directions

FULL CONTEXT

Atanu Biswas

In Satyajit Ray's 1980 satirical fantasy film *Hirak Rajar Deshe*, literally "in the kingdom of the Diamond King", the Education Minister of the king dictates what should be taught in school. Finally, the Minister closes the school. Is the story a true reflection of the contemporary world, to some extent?

The nature of education and how it shapes society can be examined in a variety of contexts, from the fictional kingdom of the Diamond King to real-life Donald Trump's America. Given that Columbia, an Ivy League university, surrendered its academic freedom, and Harvard, the oldest and richest American university, has chosen to legally defend it, one would wonder what academic freedom is and what its scopes and limitations are.

When then President Pranab Mukherjee spoke at the "International Buddhist Conference" in Nalanda in 2017, he invoked Nalanda and Taxila, the ancient universities, to pitch for an atmosphere free from prejudice, anger, violence, and doctrines. "It must be conducive to free flow intellectual persuasions," he stated.

Loud voices: Protesters march against the Trump administration's policies and to demand 'liberty, solidarity and accountability' from their universities in New York, U.S. FILE PHOTO

A difficult path

However, it's not so easy, always. Scholars who disagreed with church theology or behaved in ways the church deemed unacceptable risked persecution in medieval Europe. Then, philosopher Wilhelm von Humboldt created a new university in Berlin in the early 19th century. The fundamental principles of academic freedom - freedom of scientific inquiry and the unification of research and teaching - were institutionalised in and diffused to other countries by the Humboldtian model of higher education. Today's seemingly made-up concept of academic freedom can be summed up as follows: students have the right to learn in an academic environment free from outside interference, and teachers have the right to instruct. The right of teachers to engage in social and political critique is another definition, though. In a 2022 paper published in the *Houston Law Review*, Yale Law School professor Keith E. Whittington stated that universities committed to truth-seeking and the advancement and dissemination of human knowledge essentially require "robust protections for academic freedom for scholars and instructors."

At the UNESCO-organised International Conference in Nice in 1950, the Universities of the World pledged for "the right to pursue knowledge for its own sake and to follow wherever the search for truth may lead." Academic freedom was then defined as "the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead" at the first annual Global Colloquium of University Presidents held at Columbia University in 2005. But is defining and accomplishing academic freedom really that straightforward?

Tenure, promotions, pay hikes, research funding, and academic honours are all intimately correlated with research publications in the current academic environment. Thus, today's scholars are driven by the peer pressure of publishing. And the interest of funding agencies has a significant impact on academicians' research. Nowadays, universities are also concerned with their international rankings, which are largely based on research papers.

'Publish or perish' culture

How serious is today's "publish or perish" culture? Quite a bit, indeed. One significant exception was 2013 Nobel laureate British physicist Peter Higgs, well known for the Higgs Boson. He stated that he became "an embarrassment to the department when they did research assessment exercises" and that he would have most likely been fired from his job at the University of Edinburgh if he had not been nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1980. However, he thought that because he would not be deemed "productive" enough in today's academic system, no university would hire him. Thus, today's academic system doesn't even permit a future Nobel winner to peacefully conduct his own research without regularly generating research papers.

Nowadays, there's little scope for leeway in a pre-scheduled framework of university curriculum. Furthermore, as American biologist Jerry Coyne put it, a geology teacher who casually informs his students that the earth is flat is not exercising academic freedom but rather is failing in his duties. Compared to general freedom of speech, academic freedom of speech is more limited. For instance, a non-academic can criticise the effectiveness of vaccines, but they can only do it with academic freedom if they have the necessary academic credentials.

And, importantly, academic freedom may be as much as a country's politics and society at the time would have desired to offer academic institutions. For instance, several fields of research, including sociology and genetics, were outlawed as "bourgeois pseudoscience" in the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

What's the freedom of a flying kite, indeed? When a kite is flying high, it means that the person holding the spool has just let it soar. Without the monarchs' generous financing and allowing foreign scholars and students, would ancient Nalanda or Taxila have been able to exercise their academic freedom? What happens if that person believes the kite is behaving strangely? Of course, a democracy has checks and balances, such as the judiciary and periodic elections. Therefore, academic freedom and political interference in it are continually being redefined by changing sociopolitical dynamics.

Academic freedom certainly sets up a protective umbrella over scholars' activities; however, this protection is neither absolute nor guaranteed.

(Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)

THE GIST

- Today's seemingly made-up concept of academic freedom can be summed up as follows: students have the right to learn in an academic environment free from outside interference, and teachers have the right to instruct
- Academic freedom was defined as "the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead" at the first annual Global Colloquium of University Presidents in 2005
- Tenure, promotions, pay hikes, research funding, and academic honours are all intimately correlated with research publications in the current academic environment

Do restaurants have the right to charge a service fee?

Is the service charge, typically ranging from 5% to 20% across restaurants, a legitimate business practice or an unfair burden on consumers? Why is the issue mired in litigation?

Soibam Rocky Singh

The story so far:

The legal tussle over the legitimacy of service charges in restaurants has been fiercely contested for three years in the Delhi High Court, with both the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), representing consumer interests, and restaurant associations refusing to back down.

What is the issue?

At the heart of the issue is whether the service charge, typically ranging between 5% to 20% across restaurants, is a legitimate business practice or an unfair imposition on consumers.

Following a series of consumer complaints, the CCPA issued guidelines in July 2022 prohibiting restaurants from levying such charges by default. The National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI), with over 7,000 restaurant members in India, and the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI) representing the interests of 55,000 hotels and 5,00,000 restaurants, challenged the guidelines in court.

A customer typically decides to give a tip, or gratuity, only after the meal is completed, when they are in a position to assess the quality of food and service. However, service charges are pre-fixed percentages added to the bill regardless of the service experience.

As far back as 1958, the Hotel Standards and Rate Structure Committee, chaired by late MP Diwan Chaman Lall, took note of the then-growing practice in India of levying a "service charge" on hotel bills. The committee took a strong stand against the solicitation of tips, terming it "injurious to the dignity of the worker and management" and a source of harassment for the customer. It, however, said a satisfied customer should be free to offer a tip voluntarily.

What is the consumer perspective?

For consumers, a mandatory service charge, especially when not disclosed upfront, feels like an unfair burden.

Complaints to the National Consumer Helpline indicate that diners discover this when the final bill is presented. Moreover, attempts to have them removed are frequently met with resistance.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs issued a letter to all States and Union Territories flagging that the National Consumer Helpline was receiving a number of complaints from consumers of hotels and restaurants charging service charges, in lieu of tips. The Ministry clarified that service charges are voluntary, and a consumer can have them waived. In July 2022, the CCPA issued more stringent guidelines banning hotels or restaurants from adding a service charge automatically or by default to the bill. The guidelines also banned the collection of service charges from consumers by any other name.

The NRAI and FHRAI argue that service charges have been an industry norm for over 80 years, and there exists no law that prohibits them from charging the same. They contend it forms part of wage negotiations with staff and ensures the fair distribution of tips among all staff.

What have the courts said so far?

When the initial pleas were filed against the CCPA guidelines, the High Court, in an interim order in July 2022, stayed the guidelines, provided restaurants prominently displayed the inclusion of a service charge on menus.

On March 28, this year, the High Court ruled that service charges or tips are a voluntary payment by the customer, and it cannot be made compulsory or mandatory by hotels and restaurants. A fresh appeal against this judgment has now been filed before the High Court.

THE GIST

- A customer typically decides to give a tip, or gratuity, only after the meal is completed, when they are in a position to assess the quality of food and service
- On March 28, this year, the High Court ruled that service charges or tips are a voluntary payment by the customer
- A fresh appeal against this judgment has now been filed before the High Court

'Knowing why will answer all the other questions'

At the 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session, resource persons advise students not to be afraid of making mistakes but to never repeat them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sachin B., who secured All India Rank (AIR) 41 in the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Exam - 2024, said: "Knowing why you want to do anything, will answer the how, what, when, and other questions".

He was speaking at the 23rd edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling-2025 session, held at Jnanajothi auditorium of Bengaluru Central University on Thursday.

Though a doctor by training, he said that becoming an Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer was a childhood dream, and what inspired him was a Deputy Commissioner in Maharashtra who was using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare to solve issues like malnutrition and public health.

He gave a "panchajanya" (five commandments) formulation to all students: realise the importance of building a study ecosystem; always think in terms of what is the current skill set and what is needed to get the job done; hard work is overrated and clarity is underrated; consistency is the only magical wand a student can have and from that alone comes learning even from failures, and a smart timetable that helps think systematically, plan ahead and execute plans in a time-bound manner.

Students at the The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Don't be afraid to make mistakes but never repeat them. The audacity of ambition alone gives thrill in life," he said.

Dr. Sachin also said reading *The Hindu* had been a childhood habit.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao, in his inaugural address, also praised *The Hindu* as "one of the few papers that tells the truth" and said the newspaper had a great legacy in Indian history.

Mr. Rao said that only empowered people would create an empowered nation and urged students to use the varied opportunities available today.

"Everyone emphasises courses and career options as per their interests and job opportunities. But students lack proper guidance and such activities like career counselling will help more students," he said, advising students not to get under any pressure while choosing careers. "All this happens due to lack of judgment at a younger age. Therefore, before choosing courses or career, discuss and understand the things. Interaction is also very important," he said.

Jalaja K.R., Vice-Chancellor (Acting), Bengaluru City University, said the university was happy to create such a platform where professionals from different fields and students interacted with each other. "We have a large gap between what we want to do, how we have to go about it, and what the industry requires. So, we need to bridge the gap in between," she added.

The event saw a massive response from students and parents. Around 40 higher education institutions and around 1,200 students and parents participated in the event.

Medical courses

Sujatha Rathod B.L., director, Directorate of Medical Education, said last year over 25 lakh students wrote the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, even as only 1 lakh medical seats were available in the country. "Everyone wants to be a doctor. But we also need allied health workers and students need to look at those courses as well," she said.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao and other dignitaries at the 23rd edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling session in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Engineering courses

Sanjay R. Chitnis, Vice-Chancellor of Reva University, said that there was no need to fear AI today. "It is common for students to use ChatGPT to do assignments. Initially, when computers were introduced in the banking sector, employees protested fearing that everyone would lose their jobs. Now, as time goes by, it is impossible to imagine a bank transaction without computers. AI will not take away your work. Instead, it will make your work smart," he said.

"Aspirants need to make a list of good engineering colleges in Bengaluru and Karnataka and find out what courses they offer. You must find all the information about the engineering colleges," he advised.

Speaking about CET counselling, R. Manjunath, joint controller of exams, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), said that the authority not only conducts entrance exam for engineering courses, but also for others like BSc Agriculture, BVSc, Pharmacy, and BSc Nursing as well.

Other courses

Speaking about chartered accountancy, Manjunath M. Hallur, chairman of ICAI-Bengaluru branch, said: "Chartered accountancy is not just about numbers, but it's about trust, responsibility and making smart decisions in the world of finance and business. CAs are the financial doctors of businesses and they are the most trusted professionals in India," he said.

Speaking about cost management accounting, D. Abhijeet Jain, chairman, The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Bengaluru chapter, said: "In this competitive world, cost management is key. You can accelerate any business if we can manage costs," he said.

Ameen-e-Mudassar, career counsellor and CEO of CIGMA India, exhorted students to learn multiple skills, upgrade themselves through online courses, and said this would help them build a great career. "Don't choose your career influenced by others. Don't get tempted by current trends and don't finalise before you clarify," he said.

Sponsors

- **Platinum sponsor:** The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Presidency University; Reva University;
- **Gold sponsors:** R.V. University, Bengaluru, Chanakya University, Bengaluru, East Point Group of Institutions; Cambridge Group of Institutions; Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.
- **Silver sponsors:** GSSS School of Architecture for Women, Mysuru; JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru; JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru; Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru; Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan; Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru; Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru; Soundarya Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Adichunchanagiri University; The Christ (Deemed to be University); CMR University; Indian Institute of Fashion Technology; Karnataka Milk Federation; MSIL, and K.S. Group of Institutions.
- **Associate sponsors:** Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi; SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire; The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Karnataka Bank; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar; Bapuji Educational Association (Regd.), Davangere; Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi; VTU; Navkis Engineering College, BLDE Association, Vijayapura; and IDBI Bank.
- **Regional sponsor:** MVJ College of Engineering, Bengaluru.
- **Snack partner:** Naturo.

"The session was very informative. I came here to learn more about CET counselling. This is the first time I am attending any career counselling event. And it was not only encouraging and reassuring for students, but also for us parents

KAUSHIK GHOSH, Parent, Bengaluru.

"I found the session really useful. Right from the UPSC topper Sachin, and career counsellor Ameen e-Mudassar, the lectures were very inspiring. They covered various subjects and it will be helpful to the students to select aspirational courses

PADMALATHA, Parent, Bengaluru.

"This session gave me an idea on how to choose a future career. I was planning on giving KCET next year. I wanted to study Computer Science Engineering. But now, I know about more options. I will keep my options open and explore them before coming to a decision.

PRIYANKA P.C., II PU Student, Seshadripuram Composite PU College.

"I have been very confused about what to pursue after my II PU. I have been studying in the science stream and I am wondering whether to continue or switch. I had been considering doing engineering, but this event made me think about marketing or advertising as viable options.

ADITHI, II PU student

"Students and parents have many queries. They are enquiring about different branches of engineering offered by our college, the placement activities and the value-added courses offered by our college. Students are also feeling very happy about the current counselling provided to them."

MARUTI, Professor, East Point Group of Institutions

"We got good responses from students and parents. They came to enquire about the various courses like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Engineering, Computer Science courses and even commerce and management courses. Our university is offering courses across all streams

PRABHAKAR K., Assistant Professor, CMR University.

"The fair gives an exposure to students of what their futures could be. I feel happy for students being guided in this way, so that they don't rush into any decisions. We have received many enquiries here so far. Since ours is a newly established university, it's important for us to show how different we are from the others.

AMOGH S.RAJ., Assistant Professor, Chanakya University.

COMEDK-UGET for engineering courses to be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The undergraduate entrance test for admission to engineering courses at private engineering colleges in the State, conducted by the Consortium of Medical Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK-UGET), will be held on Saturday. This year, a total of 1,31,937 candidates are enrolled for the test across India. The test will be held in 28 States, 179 cities and 248 test centres in three sessions.

The morning session will be held between 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m., whereas the afternoon session will be held between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The evening session will be held between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

"Since this is an all-India level examination, the dress code for the COMEDK-2025 exam will be in line with what is advocated by the respective State governments

CONSORTIUM OF MEDICAL ENGINEERING AND DENTAL COLLEGES OF KARNATAKA

This examination is computer-based. Candidates must carry the test admission ticket downloaded from their applicant login, and two recent passport-size colour photographs.

On dress code, COMEDK said, "Since this is an all-India level examination, the dress code for the COMEDK 2025 exam will be in line with what is advocated by the respective State governments."

Things allowed inside the exam hall include the test admit ticket, two passport size photos, the unique id proof as declared in application, a transparent water bottle and a pencil

UAS-B set to give a push to urban gardening

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

As part of efforts to increase green spaces in Bengaluru and encourage people to grow their own vegetables in whatever limited spaces they have, the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) has embarked upon an initiative to promote urban gardening/horticulture.

While the university has launched a paid short-term course in urban gardening, it is also planning to offer consultancy services based on availability of space and specific requirement of house owners.

"We want to encourage residents to grow their own vegetables. Experts in the university will help them understand how a family of three to four people can ensure regular availability of vegetables. Also, we want residents to convert their wet waste into compost. This will reduce the burden of civic authorities and keep the city clean," says UAS-B Vice-Chancellor S.V. Suresha.

The UAS-B wants to encourage residents to grow their own vegetables. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pointing out that unmaintained empty plots have become a problem for the neighbourhood owing to the growth of bushes and dumping of garbage, he said: "With the consent of plot owners, the neighbourhood can use that space for growing vegetables".

He added: "We also want children in urban families to get first-hand exposure to growing plants. It is a matter of concern that several urban children have no practical idea about plants or cultivation."

The two-day course will provide orientation to participants on general aspects of urban gardening, vertical gardening, indoor plants, composting, pot mixture to be prepared, and handling of plant diseases/pests, he noted.

The university would also provide a kit with culture material for composting, red earth and pots to those who undergo short-term course, if they wish to buy them.

He said even those with limited open spaces like apartments could practise urban gardening.

In the course of time, the university wants to design specific models of urban gardening through consultation for people depending upon their space availability. The models would include vertical gardening structures and hydroponics, he explained.

However, in several cases, terrace farming would have limitations due to various constraints related to construction, the Vice-Chancellor pointed out. In this context, the university has decided to start holding workshops for architects to provide them orientation on the pre-requirements with respect to construction of the building to facilitate terrace/urban gardening, he said.

Meanwhile, the two-day workshop on urban gardening for which ₹2,000 is being charged per person is being held from Friday for which already the participants have been chosen. The plan is to hold such workshops once in every month.

Building free houses for poor students: Udupi's Yakshagana Kalaranga shows the way

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

A II PU student Thulasi who lost her parents sometime ago was in mixed mood when Yakshagana Kalaranga of Udupi got her a new house built for free, through a donor, about two months ago.

66th free house

The house built in about three months at her native place Aadrugoli near Kirimanjeshwara in Udupi district was opened on March 3. It was the 66th free house built by the Kalaranga for poor students in the district.

The 70th free house built by Yakshagana Kalaranga of Udupi at Golihole, near Byndoor in Udupi disrtict, for PU student M.N. Varada was inaugurated on May 2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In all, 70 free houses were got built since the Kalaranga launched the free housing project in 2012 for poor students enrolled under its Vidyaposhak initiative.

All the houses were built through donors. The 70th house built for pre-university student M. N. Varada of Golihole, near Byndoor, was inaugurated on May 2.

"Another 20 houses are in the pipeline. Of them, 10 houses will be built by June 15," Murali Kadekar, secretary of the Kalaranga, told *The Hindu*.

Promoting education

The Kalaranga is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of Yakshagana and education. Its Vidyaposhak initiative launched in 2005 provides students facilities like scholarships, textbooks, book-bank scheme, health check-up and medical facilities, and free coaching for meritorious students from economically weaker families.

Students, mainly from Kannada medium, securing 80% and above in Class 10 and residing in Udupi district are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Construction of houses for Vidyaposhak students who live in dilapidated/thatch-roofed houses without any amenities is a humanitarian support extended by the Kalaranga.

Mr. Kadekar said that a team of volunteers of Kalaranga visited the houses of applicants to assess the need for scholarships. While doing so they identified the need for houses for students.

M. Gangadhar Rao, president of Kalaranga, said that the organisation had got two types of housing models, single bedroom and double bedroom. The houses were built based on the need of students. Each house is built through a donor.

Donors from middle class

"A majority of donors are from the middle class and are those who have experienced the pains of poverty in their lifetime. Such donors connect to the needs of poor families easily," Mr. Rao said, adding that a temple priest in Udupi too donated his savings for building a house.

The construction cost varied from a minimum of ₹4 lakh to a maximum of ₹7 lakh, Mr. Kadekar said, adding that all the houses had tile roofs and the built-up area of each house varied from 450 sq ft to 500 sq ft. Kalaranga provided a table and two chairs to each house. "A majority of houses have been built for girl students as donors opt for building houses to girls facing housing issues," Mr. Rao said.

Thulasi, a II PU student, said, "My family lost the house in heavy winds and rains in 2017. Later, we were living in a small room. Now, I live with my grandmother and sister in the new house built by Kalaranga. It is of great help. I don't have words to explain my happiness."

IN THE LIMELIGHT

History reflected: The cast of *Andor A Star Wars Story* during *Star Wars Story* celebration in Tokyo, Japan. FILE PHOTO

From revolutionary Russia to modern-day Gaza, how *Andor* reflects history

Drawing from the blood and betrayal of history, Tony Gilroy hijacks the *Star Wars* mythos to stage a searing political treatise of revolutions, past and present, and it's the clearest this galaxy, far, far away has ever been about ours

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

There's a scandalously radical something currently streaming on Disney+. It's a granular, more subversive vision that has been grounding the grandiose space operatics of that beloved galaxy far, far away. This is something about rebellion, yes, but also about its gestation. It's about the indignities, the betrayals, and the atrocities that make revolution inevitable and necessary. This brilliant something is Tony Gilroy's *Andor*.

Praxis before hope

Among the many surprises tucked into Gilroy's slow-burning espionage thriller masquerading as 'a *Star Wars* story', is how intimately the show understands the anatomy of rebellion. It's not surprising that he points to *The Battle of Algiers* as his biggest influence. Gillo Pontecorvo's Golden Lion-winner from 1966 is about ordinary people slowly learning how to push back, and the machinery that tries to crush them for it. *Andor* lifts from that idea to anatomise its rebellion. If *Star Wars* was once about hope, *Andor* is about praxis. That *Andor* has always felt the least like *Star Wars* has actually been the best thing about it. What it examines are the more combustible materials of history – bureaucracy, surveillance, police states, prison labour, and the everyday banality of evil that Hannah Arendt once named with terrifying clarity.

Take, for instance, the Russian Revolution. The workers' uprisings in the factories of Petrograd are mirrored in the communal defiance that brews in the working-class Ferrix, where we see people pushed to the brink by small humiliations. Like Lenin's early Bolsheviks, the citizens of Ferrix operate in coded signals and public silences.

Cassian Andor himself seems to echo a young Joseph Stalin – not yet the dictator, but the furtive conspirator, the romantic outlaw raised in hardship, slipping through borders, organising sabotage, and always ducking the eye of empire. Stalin, like Cassian, started out only with self-preservation in mind. Meanwhile, the seasoned Marxist-Leninist Luthen Rael – the one who delivers *that* speech about burning your life so someone else can feel the warmth of a distant dawn – embodies the belief that you must first seize power, often through the master's tools, to build anew. Reflections of a wise Lenin radicalising the impressionable Stalin during the Bolshevik Revolution are discernible in Luthen and Cassian's dynamic, and by the time Cassian leads a breakout from the sterile panopticon hell of the Narkina 5 labour camp, he's finally beginning to understand the contours of revolution.

Narkina 5 itself reads like a historical palimpsest. The white-on-white Imperial gulag conjures the sugar plantations of colonial Haiti. In a direct echo of Saint-Domingue under French rule, where enslaved Africans operated sugar mills in rotating teams, the prisoners at Narkina 5 are slaves in all but name. And in Kino Loy, the foreman-turned-martyr, we find shades of Toussaint Louverture – the Haitian general who began as a reformist and ended a revolutionary – caught in the middle as both victim and enforcer, who finally rises to liberate others even when he cannot liberate himself.

The Left eats itself

There's also a whisper of South Africa here – of the ANC and its covert networks, and of Mandela's long walk through compromise and confrontation. Mon Mothma embodies the internal fracturing of revolutionary thought. Like many liberal allies in apartheid-era South Africa, she hopes to work within the system and reform it gently, but Gilroy soon demonstrates the failure of soft resistance. Meanwhile, the privileged insurgent Vel recalls Patty Hearst – the heiress turned radical whose alliance with the Symbionese Liberation Army remains one of the more complicated chapters in America's revolutionary folklore. Like Hearst, Vel complicates ideas of ideological purity as both insider and class traitor, and she reminds us that revolutions often enlist allies from the very echelons they seek to dismantle.

Yet, Saw Gerrera is still by far the most fractured reflection in *Andor*'s mirror of revolution. Part Che Guevara, part Buenaventura Durruti, part Prabhakaran, part Malcolm X, he's the rebel forged from the fallout of real-world insurrections. Saw's furious roll call of rival rebel factions in Season 1 also mirrors the internecine rifts that have splintered leftist movements throughout history. The in-fighting among anarchists, communists, Trotskyists, and moderate republicans, who all opposed Francisco Franco's fascists during the Spanish Civil War, is perhaps the clearest parallel that a wounded and disillusioned George Orwell chronicled in *Homage to Catalonia*.

Though Gilroy has been explicit that *Andor* draws from a sweep of revolutionary history, there's a reason that Palestine rises so clearly from the subtext. It is, as he tacitly suggests, the most immediate and ongoing example of settler-colonialism, and the latest arc from its second season expands upon that in startling ways. In arguably *the* most harrowing hour in *Star Wars* history, *Andor* drops the veil of allegory to stare directly at modern atrocity. The incident in question may have unfolded a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, but the contours are unmistakably of our present – of Gaza, where, as of this writing, tens of thousands have been killed, starved, or buried beneath rubble by an occupying power. Gilroy and his writers sketch, with horrifying clarity, the step-by-step blueprint of that seemingly blasphemous 'g-word', too divisive to be uttered out loud, in the era of post-truth politics. And when Mon Mothma dares to name the crime, she's laughed at and jeered out of the Senate chamber. There's no way around it: this is the most politically audacious storytelling *Star Wars* has ever attempted and it's the clearest this galaxy has ever been about ours.

Every act of rebellion in *Andor* reminds us that revolution is a mosaic of singular efforts. By layering very real struggles into the architecture of *Star Wars* mythology, *Andor* further collapses that distance between fiction and reality.

The revolution *is* being televised, and the cosmic joke is that it's streaming on Disney+.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Russia is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the surrender of the Nazis to the Soviet Union in the Second World War today. A quiz on Victory Day

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
What was the legal document that effected the unconditional surrender of Nazi forces?

QUESTION 2
The Nazis had earlier signed another document of surrender, but the Soviet Union did not recognise it saying it must be signed from the German seat of power. Where was this document signed?

QUESTION 3
X, who had taken over after Adolf Hitler committed suicide, signed the surrender document for Germany. Name X.

QUESTION 4
What was the short-lived rump government of Nazi Germany under X called? Name X.

QUESTION 5
What was the meeting of the heads of the Soviet Union, the U.K. and the U.S., held in February 1945, to discuss post-war reorganisation of Germany called?

In this 2014 picture, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Mongolian counterpart Tsakhia Elbegdorj are paying tribute to a Marshal influential in the Soviet victory who later served as the country's Defence Minister. Name him. AFP

Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In 1970, this final studio album of this famous rock band was released and this was not the last album they recorded before their break up. **Ans: Let It Be, Abbey Road and The Beatles'**
2. This person became the first woman to graduate from The Citadel. **Ans: Nancy Mace**
3. On 8 May 1980, the 33rd World Health Assembly officially declared that the world is free of this disease. **Ans: Smallpox**
4.Today, this carbonated drink is one of the largest companies in the U.S. **Ans: Coca-Cola**
5.This mountain erupted in 1902 killing approximately 15% of the island's population. **Ans: Mount Pelée**
Visual: Identify the painter and the painting. **Ans: Paul Gauguin and Bonjour, Monsieur Gauguin**

Early Birds
Siddhartha Viswanathan– Tamal Biswas – Tito Shiladitya – Sunil Madhavan – Arjun Debnath

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Did you manage to play any tennis yesterday?"

"No, Ganesh didn't turn up. He said he'd come till six o'clock, but he..."

"...you mean 'by six o'clock', don't you?"

"By six o'clock", till six o'clock, what difference does it make?"

"It makes a big difference! When somebody says he'll be there by six o'clock, it means that he will be there before six o'clock."

"I see. So, if my father tells me to be home by nine, does it mean I should be there before nine?"

"In a sense, yes. What he means is that you can't stay out after nine. You should be home before nine."

"O.K. I think I've understood that. What does 'till' mean?" "When somebody says 'I'll be in my office till six o'clock', it means he will leave office only after six." "Wait a minute! If I say I'll be in my office until six o'clock', doesn't it mean the same thing?"

"That's right, 'till' and 'until' mean the same thing.

"I see. The principal of our school arrives at seven thirty and stays till five o'clock."

"That's good example. So, if you want to see him..."

"... I must be in his office by five o'clock."

"It would be a good idea if you are there by four thirty. I doubt if he'd be very pleased if you walked into his office a few minutes before five."

"That's true. He'd probably be getting ready to leave. But when you want somebody to arrive at a particular time, then what do you say?"

"If you want to be specific, then use 'at'. Be in my office at four thirty."

"That means I should be there at exactly four thirty?"

"That's right. But if I say, be in my office by five thirty, it means..." ... be there before five thirty."

"Excellent! Are you going to play tennis tomorrow, then?"

"No. I won't probably play tennis."

"I probably won't play tennis. 'Probably' should come before the negative won't."

"Is that a rule?"

"Yes, it is. You see usually in a negative sentence, adverbials like 'probably', 'usually', 'generally', and 'finally' come before the verb and the negative that follows it. For example; my father usually doesn't watch cricket on TV."

"My mother generally doesn't take the bus to the market. Kambli always doesn't score runs."

"It should be, Kambli doesn't always score runs. You see, 'always' and 'ever' are exceptions to the rule. They come after the negative."

"I see. So, I have to say, Tendulkar doesn't always score a century."

"That's right. My boss isn't ever going to stop smoking."

"I'm never going to start smoking!" "Good for you!"

"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes, which can be made, in a very narrow field," Neils Bohr.

Published in The Hindu on May 11, 1996.

Word of the day

Shibboleth:
A favourite saying of a group, organisation or individual

Synonyms: Catchword, motto, slogan

Usage: *Her use of slang was a shibboleth of youth culture.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/Shibbolethpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: ʃɪbəlɛθ

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

The Hindu Huddle, 2025: India in Dialogue

Schedule, May 9

THE HINDU GROUP

10:00 am
Opening Ceremony

10:15 am - 11:00 am
State and Nation:
Seeking Fairness within Federalism

Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Karnataka

In conversation with
Bageshree S.
Resident Editor, The Hindu

11:05 am - 11:50 am
Fortified State:
Balancing National Security with
Political Expediency

M.K. Narayanan
Former National Security Adviser, India

T.S. Tirumurti
Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York

Moderated by
N. Ravi
Director, Kasturi & Sons

11:55 am - 12:40 pm
Well-Rounded World View:
Finding a Place for Liberal Education
A Special Session Celebrating Frontline@40

Dr. Bhavani S.
Dean of School of Humanities and Performing Arts, Christ University

Dr. Jonathan Gil Harris
Professor, Ashoka University

Sudheesh Venkatesh
Managing Editor, Azim Premji Foundation

Moderated by
Dr. Srinath Raghavan
Professor, Ashoka University

12:45 pm - 1:30 pm
The Female Gaze:
Redefining Cinema on the Global Stage

Nandita Das
Filmmaker and Actor

Shahana Goswami
Actor

Jeo Baby
Filmmaker

Moderated by
Shilajit Mitra
Film Correspondent, The Hindu

1:35 pm - 2:10 pm
Lunch

2:15 pm - 2:45 pm
Whither Social Justice?
Telangana's Bold Governance Experiment

Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana

In conversation with
Ravikanth Reddy
Political Editor, Telangana, The Hindu

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm
Maharashtra Unbound:
Gateway to India's Trillion-Dollar Economy (online)*

Devendra Fadnavis
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra

In conversation with
Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, The Hindu

3:25 pm - 4:10 pm
No Boundaries:
Growth of Women's Cricket in India

Shantha Rangaswamy
Former and First Captain, India

Mithali Raj
Former Captain, India

Shreyanka Patil
Cricketer, India

Moderated by
K.C. Vijaya Kumar
Sports Editor, The Hindu

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm
Climate Calling:
Is Technology the Panacea for
a Warming Planet?

Suruchi Bhadwal
Director, Climate Change and Air Quality, TERI

Dr. Arunabha Ghosh
Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water

Dr. Sambuddha Misra
Chemical Oceanographer and Professor, IISc

Moderated by
Jacob Koshy
Deputy Science Editor, The Hindu

5:05 pm - 5:35 pm
From Quantum Valley to Education Hubs:
Leveraging Coalition Politics to
Deliver Good Governance

N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh

In conversation with
N. Ram
Director, The Hindu Group

5:40 pm - 6:10 pm
Stand-up Act

Anu Menon

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP
Presents
THE HINDU
HUDDLE
INDIA IN DIALOGUE

Co-powered by

Scan to watch the event live or log in to **newsth.live/THHDLS**
May 9 & 10
Bengaluru

*Schedule subject to change

Associate Partners: ONGC, Presidency University, TAFE 65 Years, Akshayakalpa Organic
Energy Partner: IndianOil
Realty Partner: Casagrand
Luxury Car Partner: Toyota
Knowledge Partner: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
State Partners: Meghalaya Tourism, Haryana Sarkar, Uttarakhand Shasan
Radio Partner: Radio City
Gift Partner: Anand Rakesh
Broadcast Partner: Times Now
Outdoor Media Partner: signpost India

Lokayukta conducts raids in State targeting 4 officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta police conducted simultaneous raids at over 24 locations across the State targeting four government officials accused of amassing disproportionate assets. The raids, held early on Thursday, focused on officials based in Bengaluru, Kolar, Davangere, and Yadgir. Residences, offices, and properties of the accused and their relatives were searched, revealing assets worth more than ₹26.5 crore, including cash.

Those under the scanner are Raja Venkappa Nayak, a taluk health officer in Yadgir, Suresh Babu G, a survey supervisor in Kolar,G. Srinivasa Murthy, an executive engineer with BBMP and M.B. Ravi, an assistant executive engineer in Davangere, said Lokayukta police.

Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Loka Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
*****

2nd Corrigendum Notice

File No. PT1-IPR-IMU-0003-2024 7940 /I&PR, dated: 08/05/2025

The following modifications are incorporated in the RFP No-6856 Dt-17/04/2025 published by I&PR Department on Dt.-18/04/2025 in The Samaj, The Sambad, The Times of India and The Hindu.

a. The last date for receipt of sealed proposals is dt.**16.05.2025 by 05.00 P.M.** instead of the previously notified date i.e. 09.05.2025.
b. The revised schedule for opening of the proposal is dt.**17.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M.** instead of the previously notified date i.e. 13.05.2025.

The intending bidders may visit **https://inpr.odisha.gov.in** for the other details.

Sd/- Director, I&PR
Z- OIPR-15001/11/0648/2526

Capital Region Urban Transport

Plot No-548/1452, Patia, Kalarahanga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (INDIA), Pin-751024
Email: crutbbsr@gmail.com; Phone No.: 0674-3501580

Notice No. 1072 /CRUT **Date: 08/05/2025**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF BUS OPERATOR FOR PROCUREMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 200 MIDI ELECTRIC BUSES AND ALLIED INFRASTRUCTURE ON GROSS COST CONTRACT BASIS IN KEONJHAR, BARIPADA, ANGUL, JHARSUGUDA, SAMBALPUR AND BRAMHAPUR FOR (10+2) YEARS

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) invites Proposal from interested agencies for the above mentioned purpose. Please refer the RFP document for details.

- The RFP document shall be available from **09/05/2025** onwards in following web portal: **www.capitalregiontransport.in. Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/Addendum/ Responses to the queries/ Clarifications) shall be uploaded in the above website only.**
- Applicants are required to submit duly filled Proposal as per the prescribed formats on or before **26/05/2025 by 4:00 PM.** The Proposals received shall be opened at **12:00 PM** on **28/05/2025.**
- In case of any queries/clarifications, email at **crutbbsr@gmail.com**
- CRUT reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- General Manager(P&A), Capital Region Urban Transport
C-288 OIPR-13183/11/0040/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Smt.Suriya Kumari W/o Sri. Late. J.Chandrashekar** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. Nagaraja S/o Sri.Venkatappa and Mr.Jagannatha S/o Sri.Basanna;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House property bearing **Site No.3,** e-PID No.1670746029, old Katha No.10912, of Composite Property No.1(b) Assessment No.32/9 situated at **Doddabidarakallu village, Yeswanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North,** measuring East to West : **30 feet** and North to South : **30 feet,** in all total measuring **900 square feet,** [BBMP] Ward No.40, and bounded on:-

East by : Road, West by : Site No.2 (formed out of Property No.1b), North by : Road, South by : Property of Sri. Siddarangaiah

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement with (1) **Sri. Manjunath. N,** son of late. Sri. Narayana Reddy, (2) **Smt. Vijaya. K,** wife of Sri. Manjunath. N (3) **Sri. Gagan Deep. M** son of Sri. Manjunath. N and (4) **Miss. Krutheeka. M** daughter of Sri. Manjunath. N ('Owner") for development of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder. The Owner represents and warrants that the Schedule Property is their absolute property. The Owner represent that they have neither conveyed nor have entered into any Agreement of sale/ Memorandum of Understanding nor have entered into any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/transfer/ development/ assignment of developmental rights with respect to Schedule Property and further represent that they have not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Property in any manner and apart from them there are no other person/s, firm or company have any sort of right, title or claim over the Schedule Property. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) within (21) days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the portion of the agricultural land bearing Survey No.13/2 measuring 2 Acres situated at Marasuru Agrahara Village, Kasaba 2 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru.

East by : Road and Smiley Nisarga layout (Earlier owned by Sri. P. Narayan)
West by : Neeru Kaluve
North by : Smiley Nisarga layout (Earlier owned by Sri. Bodda Reddy
South by: Smiley Nisarga layout (Earlier owned by Sri. Bhadhra Reddy).

SATISH.R ADVOCATE
No.68, PH-2, TLVA, Electronic City, Bengaluru- 560 100
Date: 08/05/2025 Mob. 9886720139
Bengaluru

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHAVNA DUBEY D/o Manoj Kumar Dubey R/O B–226 Ward Number–13 Pragati Nagar Deepka Korba Chhattisgarh – 495452 changed my name to BHAVNA CHATURVEDI.

I, Yoginibahen Nareshbhai Gohel D/o Nareshbhai R/o 173, Spring Woods Layout, Jigni, Bangalore 560105 have changed my name to Yogini Nareshbhai Gohel for all purposes.

I, Hitherto Known as Vinod Kumar k S/O Krishnachari K Residing at #807, Behind Post office Kadugod1, Kadugod1 Plantation. Kadugodi, Bangalore, south Bangalore, Karnataka 560067, Have Changed my Name and shall hereafter be known as Vinodd Kumar For All Future Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SRINIVASA PERUMAL A, S/o Arikrishnan, aged about 58 years, R/at No. 11/7, 8th Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 do hereby declare that both the names of my son i.e. **S MUGUNDAN** and **MUGUNDAN S** are one and the same and refers to my son only, vide affidavit dated 07-05-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ONKARAPPA .N.R** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S AMURTHAM, W/o A Srinivasa Perumal, age 48 years, R/at NO. 11/7, 8th Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **S AMURTHAM, AMURTHAM S** and **S AMURDAM** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **S AMURTHAM** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 07-05-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ONKARAPPA .N.R** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMIYA Inayath, D/o Rajashekar, R/at Flat No.202, 2nd Floor, E Block, Platinum City, Yeshwanthpur, Bengluru-560022, have changed my name from Sumiya Inayath to Sumiya Rajashekar vide affidavit dated 07-05-2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, SUDESH Kumar Gangadhar, S/o. Gangadhar Rao, residing at #43, Byranna Building, Bajane Mandir Road, Papaiah Compound, B Channasandra, Kalyannagar Post, Bengaluru 560043, have changed my name to Sudesh Kapse Gangadhar vide Affidavit Dated: 08/05/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

I have lost physical share certificate of
1. Banco Products (India) Ltd with Folio No : 00281922.
2. Pearl Global Industries LTD with Folio No : 21562 / 22030.
Please Return if you find the same to Mr. Cherezad Ratan Bharucha - 080 41155000
Date: 9th May, 2025
Place: Bangalore

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE 70000 Sqft PEB industrial SHED & 6.5 acre Land in Shoolagiri NH–7 Highway contact:–8660875033

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

KERALA SAMAJAM IAS ACADEMY,
BENGALURU (Since 2011)
(A social mission of Bangalore Kerala Samajam)

IAS 2026

HYBRID MODE
Live Online Classes on Week days
(7 pm to 9 pm) and
Offline Classes on Sundays
(9 am to 5 pm)

- *15 MONTHS INTEGRATED GUIDANCE PROGRAM*
- *ALL SUBJECTS + OPTIONAL (HIST, SOCIO)*
- *FACULTY PANEL COMPRISING CIVIL SERVANTS and SUBJECT EXPERTS*

OPEN TO ALL

ORIENTATION SESSION
on 11.05.2025 @ Kairalee Niketan Education Trust, Indiranagar

REGISTER 8431414491

AVAIL THE BEST GUIDANCE AT THE LEAST EXPENSES
161 results till now!!! You be the next!!!

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bharathkumar R Madagunaki S/o Ramappa T Madagunaki R/@ No.1103, E block, KHB Platinum Aparment, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru- 560060 do hereby solemnly state that, renouncing my old name **BHARATHKUMAR MADAGUNAKI** I am assuming my new name **BHARATHKUMAR R MADAGUNAKI** from this day. I further state that I will continue all my future business in new name only vide affidavit dated 07.05.2025 sworn to Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement with 1) **Sri. Nanjunda Reddy,** son of Sri. Narayana Reddy, 2) **Smt. Gayathri,** wife of Sri. Nanjunda Reddy, 3) **Smt. Rashmi K N,** daughter of Sri. Nanjunda Reddy, 4) **Smt. Bindu N,** daughter of Sri. Nanjunda Reddy and 5) **Sri. Deepak K N,** son of Sri. Nanjunda Reddy ('Owner") for development of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder. The Owner represents and warrants that the Schedule Property is their absolute property. The Owner represent that they have neither conveyed nor have entered into any Agreement of sale/Memorandum of Understanding nor have entered into any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/transfer/development/assignment of developmental rights with respect to Schedule Property and further represent that they have not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Property in any manner and apart from them there are no other person/s, firm or company have any sort of right, title or claim over the Schedule Property. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) within (14) days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the residential converted land bearing Survey No.141/4 (Old Survey No.141) measuring 1 Acre situated at Kuthaganahalli Village, Sarjapura 1 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru.

East by : Land bearing Sy No.140
West by : Land bearing Sy No.141/3
North by : Land bearing Sy No.70
South by : Road

SATISH.R ADVOCATE
No.68, PH-2, TLVA, Electronic City, Bengaluru- 560 100
Date: 08/05/2025 Mb No.9886720139
Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Fax:080-28094180, Ph:080-280904182 / 4541

CORRIGENDUM-II Date:08.05.2025

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAIN/E-TN-05/2025-2026 Dated: 03.04.2025.**
Name of Work	**Supply Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 60kVA (40kVA+20kVA) Modular UPS system at New GSAT 19 facility, IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 23.66 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs. on 04.04.2025 to 19.04.2025 till 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 03.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. **Further Extended up to 13.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	From 11.00 hrs. on 05.04.2025 to 20.04.2025 till 16.00 hrs Extended up to 04.05.2025 up to16.00 hrs. **Further Extended up to 14.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	21.04.2025 up to 16.00 hrs Extended up to 05.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. **Further Extended up to 15.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	22.04.2025 up to 16.00 hrs Extended up to 06.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. **Further Extended up to 16.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	24.04.2025 after 11.00 hrs. Extended up to 08.05.2025 after 11.00 hrs. **Further Extended up to 19.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 47,320.00

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head,CMG

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

No.EE:PWD:CTA:JE-2:Tender-08:2025-26 Dated:- 07.05.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements:_ (1) IMPROVEMENTS TO SELECTED REACHES OF ROAD FROM GORAVIGONDANAHALLI (SH-47) TO RANGAVANALLI BOVIHATTI(SH-24) VIA TO JOIN ATTIGATTA KORACHARATTI AT CH 17.40 KM TO 18.60KM IN HOSADURGA TALUK (WI.21666) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-100.00

(2) Construction of C C Road and Drain in Harenhalli Village Limit Of Belaguru Thimmalapura road in Hosadurga Taluk.(WI.21662) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-100.00

(3) Constuction of C C Road and Drain in D T Vatti Village Limit of Mallapanahalli Kittadal Road in Hosadurga Taluk. (WI.21664) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-100.00

Tenders dates are as mentioned below:Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 22-05-2025 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 23-05-2025 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 26-05-2025 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 28-05-2025 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 62/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR

No:UDAR/ADM/FD/ /2025-26 Date:03.05.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Auction - for Investment of Surplus Funds In Short Term Bank Fixed Deposits (From Nationalised Bank, Public Sector & Private SectorBanks only) (Through e-Procurement Portal of GoK) https:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Number:RCRUDA/2025-26/AUCTION6

Particulars: Surplus Fund. **Tender No:** Number: RCRUDA/2025-26/AUCTION6. **Estimated Cost(In Crs):** 3.70.

1) Tender document may be downloaded from KPPP Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 03-05-2025, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before 12-05-2025 @ 05.00 PM, 3) Date and Time to confirm Participation of Interest in Auction: on13-05-2025 upto 5.00 PM 4) Start Date and Time of Evaluation: Date: 15-05-2025 at 11.00 AM.5) Date and Time of live auction Date: 17-05-2025 Time : 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಯಾವುದೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Commissioner Urban Development Authority, Raichur.
DIP/RCR/83/KSMCA/83/2025-26
Sd/- Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

Government of India, Ministry of Finance
Deptt. of Financial Services,
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, Bengaluru
Jeevan Mangal Building (2nd Floor), No. 4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560025.

RC NO.: 282/2019

Corporation Bank (Union Bank of India - erstwhile Corporation Bank)
Srinagara Branch, No. 20, 80 Feet Road, Srinivasanagar, Bangalore - 560 050
... Applicant Bank/Certificate Holder
: Versus :
Sri Dayanada Prabhu
... Certified Debtor(s)/Defendant(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Sri. Dayananda Prabhu S/o Sri Prabhu, Proprietor of M/s D.P. Foods, No. 51, 2nd Floor, Lingegowda Smaraka Bhavana, Yadalamma Nagar, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061 **Aslo at:** No. 511, Vasanthapura Main road, MGH Society, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru - 560061.
... Certified Debtor(s)/Defendant(s)

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA/646/2017** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore dtd. 2nd day of February 2019 an amount of **Rs. 10,47,688/- (Rupees Ten Lakh(s) Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Eight Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount **within 15 days** of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on 1st day of July, 2019.

Sd/- Recovery Officer-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2
Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph: 080-280904196, 4184, 4541, 4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ETN-20/ 2025-2026 dated: 07.05.2025**
Name of work	**Providing chain link fencing near H Block open area, existing dry waste yard & DG Yard and Providing Paver blocks in DG Yard at DOS Housing Colony, Jalahalli (Civil Works).**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 7.66 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion	**02 (Two) months**
Period during which tender documents can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs. on 09.05.2025 to 16.30 hrs on 19.05.2025**
Bid clarifications	**From 15.30 hrs. on 09.05.2025 to 16.30 hrs on 20.05.2025**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 16.30 hrs on 21.05.2025**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 14.30 hrs on 22.05.2025**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**23.05.2025 after 11.30 hours**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 15,320/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head-CMG

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police,
Police Computer Wing, 7th Floor, M.S. Building,
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Tel. No: 080-22353871 e-mail: adgppcw@ksp.gov.in

No: 51/STS/DGP/PCW/2024-25/Call-2 Date: 07.05.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for training of the system administrator.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Particulars	No. of person	Last date for submission of Tender
1	KSP/ 2024-25/ SE0057/ Call-2	Basic Hardware Management	100	26.05.2025 by 17.30 hrs.
		Windows 11		
		Windows Server		
		CCNA		
		Network Security Management		

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement portal. The training about e-Procurement is being provided at e-Procurement Cell, e-Governance Department, M.S. Building, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560 001. The Vendors may contact the helpline No.91-80-46010000, +91-80-68948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

1) Downloading of Tender Document & Last date of submission of Tender document: **From 09.05.2025 to 24.05.2025 before 17.30 hrs.** 2) EMD Amount: **Rs.62,000/- (Sixty Two Thousand only)** which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. a) Credit Card b) Debit Card c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) d) Detail of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-Payment document available on website) 3) Pre-bid meeting: **14.05.2025 at 12.00 hrs.** 4) Technical Bid Opening: **26.05.2025 at 11.30 hrs.** 5) Commercial Bid Opening : **31.05.2025 at 11.30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Director General of Police,
Police Computer Wing, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/525/Maa/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

SPORTSTAR

DAY 49

INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

Play now & start winning!

1. In motorsports, what term refers to a pause during a race for refuelling, tyre changes, repairs, driver swaps, penalties, or other adjustments?
2. Which country is home to the driver who won back-to-back Formula 1 World Championships in 2005 and 2006?
3. Which driver clinched his first Formula 1 World Championship in 2005, becoming the then-youngest F1 World Champion, at the age of 24?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: AB de Villiers

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Bharath Krishna.S, Trichy | 2. Bhuvan Ananda Rout, Hyderabad | 3. C.S.Rogith Raadhakrishnan, Chennai

DAMRO

Internationally Trusted Furniture

SUMMER SALE

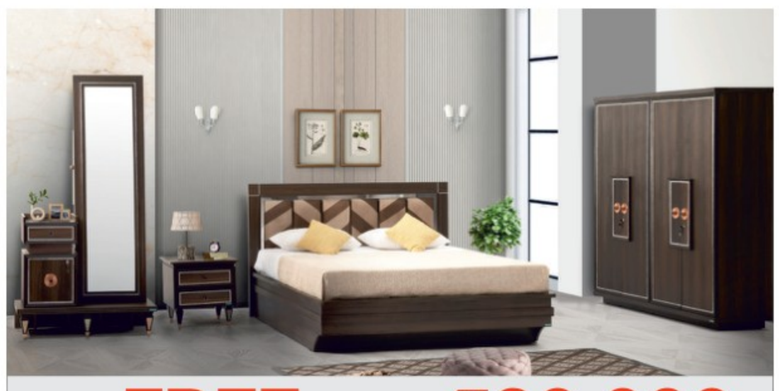
WALDER RECLINER SOFA (3RE + 2RE)
MRP ₹2,00,000

INSTANT DISCOUNT **₹15,000** + **₹25,000** FREE PRODUCTS

ALICIA LEATHER RECLINER SOFA (3RR + 1R + 1R)
Was ~~₹1,35,000~~ **Now ₹1,20,000** EMI ₹10,000

SINCLAIR RECLINER SOFA (3+ 1R+ 1R)
Was ~~₹90,000~~ **Now ₹79,000** EMI ₹6,584

PALASIDE RECLINER SOFA (3RR + 2RR)
Was ~~₹82,000~~ **Now ₹69,000** EMI ₹5,750



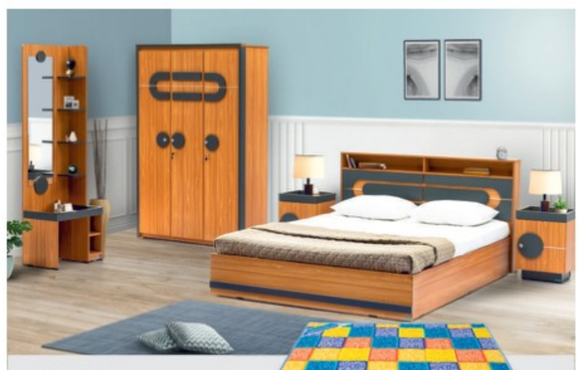
GET **FREE** PRODUCTS WORTH **₹20,000**
ON PURCHASE OF PRESTON BED & WARDROBE

ZAIRA 6 SEATER WOODEN DINING TABLE SET **Now ₹49,900** EMI ₹4,158

MODULAR KITCHEN **UPTO 45% OFF**

PROXIMA (3 + 2 SEATER)
Now ₹49,500
& GET **FREE** PIVOT CENTER TABLE

MONACO (CORNER SOFA)
Now ₹36,900
& GET **FREE** TAMPA SHOE RACK



BOSTON BEDROOM SET
& RESTO FOAM MATTRESS
Now ₹46,900 EMI ₹3,908

GLADE EXECTIVE TABLE
& ROMA HIGH BACK CHAIR
Now ₹18,900

*Conditions Apply

250+ SHOWROOMS IN SOUTH ASIA

JP NAGAR	MARATHAHALLI	ELECTRONIC CITY	NAGARBHAVI	BANASWADI	RAJAJINAGAR	HEBBAL	MANTRI SQUARE MALL
88677 64517	9611022523	080 43705882	9686445158	080 4152 3335	080 23132297	7348835653	9611700309

BELAGAVI	MANGALORE	UDUPI	KUNDAPURA	HASSAN	MYSORE	BALLARI	HUBLI	KALABURAGI
0831 2478223	0824 4251 388	0820 2528788	08254 263888	08172 246595	0821 4268646	08392 268944	0836 2363435	08472 235852

TOLL FREE CUSTOMER CARE
1800 425 1122.

SALES SUPPORT
salessupport@damroindia.com

SHOP ONLINE @
www.damroindia.com

FREE DELIVERY SERVICE | FREE ASSEMBLY | ASSURED WARRANTY | FINANCE SERVICE | BAJAJ FINSERV | HDFC BANK

M BG-BGE

BMTC to soon launch Smart ETMs

This comes in response to increasing public demand for more accessible and contactless payment methods in city buses

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a step towards digitising public transport and enhancing commuter convenience, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is finally set to introduce Smart Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) that support UPI and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) payments. The move comes in response to increasing public demand for more accessible and contactless payment methods in city buses.

BMTC floated a tender recently for these Android-based handheld devices, which will be used by conductors to issue tickets and process digital payments in real time.

The new ETMs are expected to improve the existing system, which currently relies on static UPI QR codes pasted inside buses – a method that many commuters find frustrating and outdated.

The new ETMs are expected to improve the existing system, which currently relies on static UPI QR codes inside buses. FILE PHOTO

A BMTC official explained, "The Smart ETM is an Android-based device that can capture ticketing information, print tickets instantly, and transfer real-time data to the central fare collection system using 5G or wi-fi. It will support both QR code scanning and for UPI and NCMC card-based payments. The device also features a high-resolution touch display and an in-built thermal printer for smooth operation."

The selected technology provider will not only supply the Smart ETMs but also develop and maintain a comprehensive fare collection system. "This includes a central web-based software for ticketing, dashboards for real-time monitoring, integration with the existing Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS), and adherence to strict performance and security standards," official added.

This development builds on BMTC's earlier effort in January 2024, when the corporation introduced static UPI QR codes in nearly 75% of its fleet after requests from commuters. Since then, digital payments have picked up substantially, with UPI transactions now contributing around 20% of BMTC's daily ticket revenue – an estimated ₹60 lakh each day, a BMTC official said earlier.

However, passengers say the current method still poses challenges. "In a packed bus, locating the QR code is like playing hide and seek. You have to stretch your hand, hold your phone steady, and then complete the payment. It's chaotic. The new smart ETMs sound like a huge relief," said Ajay Kumar, who travels daily from Banashankari to Shivajinagar.

Commuters have also been urging BMTC to implement NCMC functionality, especially since BMRCL has already introduced NCMC. "This is something we've been waiting for. I mostly use UPI for everything, but the current QR system in buses is inconvenient. I once had to ask a stranger to shift so I could scan the code pasted above the window. The conductor still insisted I show the payment screen. The process is far from seamless. If BMTC can implement Smart ETMs like KSRTC has, it will change the experience entirely," said Sudha Krishnan, a daily commuter from Bannerghatta Road to Majestic.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has already rolled out similar initiatives for digital payments. Since November 2024, it has adopted cashless ticketing across its fleet of 8,800 buses, supported by more than 10,000 smart ETMs.

BMRCL deploys AI-powered CCTV surveillance between Baiyappanahalli and M.G. Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to enhance commuter safety, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered advanced CCTV camera surveillance system at six metro stations between Baiyappanahalli and M.G. Road stations in Bengaluru.

Commissioned on Tuesday, the system is designed to monitor not just the interiors of stations but also their peripheries, enabling real-time threat detection and anomaly tracking through AI-powered video analytics, according to BMRCL officials.

Combined with AI-based video analytics, this system enables real-time identification of potential threats, anomalies, and suspicious activities, thereby proactively fortifying security across the metro corridor. "A key feature of the deployment is the incorporation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology, which captures and analyses vehicle number plates in front of metro stations," said a senior BMRCL official.

"By implementing AI-powered surveillance and ANPR technology, we are able to proactively monitor station environments, detect threats swiftly, and ensure a safer, more secure metro network for Bengaluru," said M. Maheshwar Rao, managing director, BMRCL.

According to BMRCL, the intelligent surveillance system is aimed at fortifying the security infrastructure across the corridor while boosting situational awareness for metro authorities. Officials added that such technological interventions are part of the organisation's broader vision to integrate smart solutions as the city's metro network continues to expand.

Similarly, on April 22, *The Hindu* reported that South Western Railway (SWR) began installing a state-of-the-art security system known as the Converged Communication System (CCS) at its stations – marking the first deployment of its kind across the Indian Railways network. Valued at ₹55 crore, the project integrates voice, video, and data services into a unified platform, with the aim of transforming both operational communication and security infrastructure, according to SWR officials.

Officials said the system will ensure seamless and secure communication across stations, trains, and operational centres.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 16:04	SET 03:33
SATURDAY, MAY. 10	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 16:49	SET 04:07
SUNDAY, MAY. 11	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:37
RISE 17:36	SET 04:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Bengaluru Town Hall to challenge GBGA in Supreme Court

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A civic collective organised under the banner of Bengaluru Town Hall has resolved to legally challenge the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act (GBGA) 2024, calling the legislation "undemocratic and unconstitutional". The group, comprising planners, lawyers, and citizen volunteers, has begun formulating a legal strategy to contest the Act in the Supreme Court, marking the first formal opposition to legislation since its passage in April.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot gave his assent to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, and the State government issued a gazette notification. The legislation will allow for establishment of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for coordinating and supervising the development of the greater Bengaluru area. The Governor in March returned the Bill passed in both the Houses during the Budget session seeking clarification. The government sent back the Bill providing clarifications.

The decision to legally challenge the Act by the BTH is one of four coordinated initiatives launched by the group in response to what it sees as a "top-down, opaque approach" to urban governance reform in Bengaluru.

Prakash Belawadi, actor and activist who is spearheading the BTH, told *The Hindu*: "We have decided to challenge the Act legally. As the subject pertains to constitutional violation, we are planning to approach the Supreme Court. We have also held meetings with the advocates on the same.

Alongside the legal action, the group has constituted a Masterplan Focus Group consisting of planning experts who are leading a citizen-driven urban master planning exercise – an alternative to government-led processes that they say often lack public participation. This group will prepare a masterplan in adherence with the rules and relevant laws.

Another subgroup is drafting a Citizens' Bill for Urban Governance, a grassroots legislative effort that compares existing Bills, model laws, and governance Acts to create a comprehensive and inclusive city governance draft.

In addition to this to support these efforts, a communications team is building a digital outreach strategy to inform, engage, and mobilise the public.

BBMP plans to deploy bandicoot robots to clean clogged drains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is considering the use of bandicoot robots –machines designed to clean clogged drains. The technology, already in use in Chennai, aims to eliminate manual scavenging and improve efficiency in drain maintenance.

BBMP Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, following a review meeting on ongoing civic projects, on Thursday said: "We are planning to experiment with new technology to clean drains that contribute to flooding. Bandicoot robots were used in Chennai, and we may explore using a similar system to assess its effectiveness."

A file photo of a demonstration of a bandicoot robot at Salem in Tamil Nadu.

These semi-autonomous robots are developed to navigate through narrow drain lines, sucking out debris and waste. "The BBMP needs to evaluate the functionality of this technology," the official said. However the officials have not shared the cost details of the technology. The robots operate remotely, similar to drone technology.

Mr. Rao also said that the ongoing cleanliness drive – launched on April 22 under the direction of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar – will be extended. Initially planned for 10 days, the campaign will now continue for about a month, focusing on high-density areas such as bus stands, railway stations, and other public zones. So far, the BBMP has cleared 90% of major black spots across the city, Mr. Rao said, adding that the the BBMP is relentlessly working towards making the city look neat and clean.

In preparation for the monsoon, the BBMP has identified 209 flood-prone zones. Officials have been directed to implement flood mitigation measures, and traffic police have been asked to assist in identifying flooded roads.

As part of road maintenance, the BBMP has repaired 245 out of 812 identified potholes.

Mr. Rao said the citizens can register complaints about potholes and pothole filling is a dynamic process.

Trace DNA at livestock kill sites can be used to reliably identify individual predators: Study

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) researchers in a recent study have stated that trace DNA left by large carnivores at livestock kill sites can be used to reliably identify individual predators.

NCBS said that this approach offers a powerful tool to effectively manage human-wildlife conflict and understand predator behaviour and ecology.

"In communities that live in proximity to large carnivores, livestock depredation might cause conservation challenges. Systematic understanding of individuals involved in conflict is a critical first step towards a solution," said Uma Ramakrishnan, senior author of the study which has been published in *Biological Conservation*.

NCBS said that around the world, managing human-wildlife conflict often involves relocating or removing the suspected predator.

NCBS has said that around the world, managing human-wildlife conflict often involves relocating or removing the suspected predator.

"Typically, forest departments rely on field signs like pugmarks, scat, or claw marks to identify the animal involved. However, these signs can be ambiguous, and removing the non-target individual may disturb carnivore populations and sometimes further intensify conflict situations. More reliable and robust genetic identification of predators could be an effective strategy for conflict resolution," NCBS said.

The researchers in collaboration with Panthera and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department investigated 198 kill sites across two of Central India's key tiger habitats - Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves.

At each site, researchers collected non-invasive genetic samples - saliva, scat, and shed hair as a potential source of predator DNA.

Using genetic tools based on Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), they identified individual tigers present at these kill sites. Shed hair samples were the most effective for individual identification, followed closely by saliva and scat.

Overall, tigers were successfully identified at 85% of the kill sites, with species-level identification exceeding 95% across all sample types.

To assess each tiger's likely involvement in a kill, the team developed a classification framework based on the type and location of genetic evidence. Each case was categorised as a true predator (high confidence),circumstantial predator (medium confidence), or predator uncertain (low confidence).

Out of the 198 cases studied, 72 were classified with high confidence, 34 with medium confidence, and 49 with low confidence.

"Genetic samples are often the only true evidence of a predation event and are therefore vital. While identification is possible, there remains some possibility of misidentification especially when multiple individuals are present at the kill site. That's why it's important to assign confidence levels in identification. We hope that such a classification scheme will help better represent the level of confidence provided by the genetic tools and further evidence-based conflict management," said Himanshu Chhattani, lead author of the study.

Guard held for murder of eight-year-old

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 36-year-old security guard has been arrested for allegedly murdering an eight-year-old boy in a suspected act of revenge against his neighbours, the police said on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Chandeswar Matur, a native of Bihar, worked at an apartment complex in Rayasandra. The victim, Ramananda, also from Bihar, lived in the same locality with his family.

According to a senior police officer, the incident came to light when Ramananda went missing around 7 p.m. on Wednesday. His family began searching for him with the help of locals and suspected Chandeswar's involvement, citing past quarrels with neighbours.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Ramananda often picked fights with Chandeswar's school-going daughters. Despite warnings, the boy allegedly continued harassing them. On Wednesday, he lured Ramananda to the lake, smothered him to death, and dumped the body in the water.

Residents stopped from taking part in laying of foundation stone

Mathew William
BENGALURU

Residents of Indiranagar, organised under the banner of 'I Change Indiranagar' (ICIN), were stopped by the police from entering a foundation stone laying ceremony of a basketball stadium at a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) playground in Indiranagar I Stage on Thursday. The residents have termed the police move "undemocratic".

The residents have been opposing the project alleging that the BBMP playground would slip into the hands of private persons resulting in a bar on the entry of local children. The residents have also submitted a memorandum to BBMP Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao demanding scrapping of the project.

Sneha Nandihal, resident of Indiranagar, said the locals visited the venue of the event merely to attend. As the ground is run by the BBMP and the event was organised by the BBMP, the residents had the right to participate, she said, condemning police action.

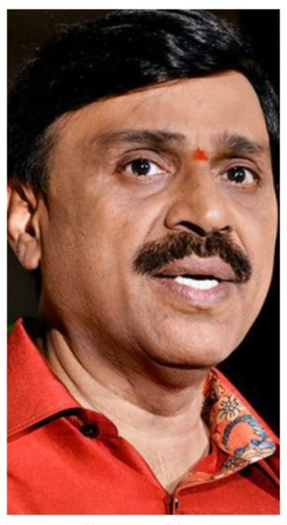
D. Devaraj, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) East, told *The Hindu*: "The residents had posted on social media about the intention to protest. So we stopped the residents". However, residents claimed that they had made no such posts.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 07/2025/SBC Dated: 02.05.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8255216A	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane of 10T Capacity with Auxiliary Hoist of 3T Capacity and with shrouded DSL of 90 Meter Length for Machine Repair Bays at Diesel Loco Shed / Krishnarajapuram (DSL/KJM). **(Qty: 2 Nos.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 29.05.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/91/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X



G. Janardhana Reddy

Janardhana Reddy disqualified from Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Minister and BJP leader, Gali Janardhana Reddy, representing Gangavati in the Legislative Assembly, has been disqualified from the House following his conviction by the court of Principal Special Judge for CBI cases in Hyderabad.

Mr. Reddy's disqualification came into effect from May 6, 2025 in terms of the provisions of Article 191 (1) (e) of the Constitution of India read with section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The disqualification would continue for a six-year period since his release, unless the conviction is stayed by a competent court, according to a notification issued by the Assembly secretary, M.K. Vishalakshi.

A CBI Special Court in Hyderabad on May 6, 2025 awarded seven-year imprisonment to four persons, including Mr. Reddy and his relative B.V. Srinivas Reddy, managing director, Obulapuram Mining Corporation, in a case of illegal mining in Anantapur district of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

The case was registered by the CBI nearly 16 years ago.

Karnataka has initiated drills as per Central guidelines, says CM

Siddaramaiah says all Union government norms are being complied with, and security has been tightened at vital installations across the State, as part of the enhanced security protocols

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Consequent to India carrying out strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan, the State government has initiated drills as per the Central guidelines, and security personnel were in a state of alert at sensitive installations and critical infrastructure, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Gejjalagere near Maddur in Mandya district on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah, who was in the district to take part in a few official and private programmes, said that all guidelines issued by the Centre were being complied with, and security has been tightened up at vital installations as part of the enhanced security protocols.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to presspersons at Gejjalagere in Mandya district on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We are on high alert across the State. Instructions from the Centre were being followed diligently. Precautionary drills were being carried out to ensure public safety in case of any unforeseen circumstances," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

In response to a question on special prayers in temples coming under the Muzrai Department, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that Minister Ramalinga Reddy had taken the decision in consultation with him.

Responding to allegations by the BJP regarding the status of Pakistani nationals residing in the State, the Chief Minister said that "almost all Pakistani nationals in Karnataka have been deported."

"Only a few individuals, particularly in Mysuru, have taken the legal route by approaching the courts. Other than those cases, the deportation process has been effectively carried out. But I have no information about the number of such persons still in the State," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Security at dams to be enhanced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In light of Operation Sindoor and related developments, the Karnataka government has directed for the immediate enhancement of security at all dams across the State. The directive was issued by the the Water Resources Department on Thursday.

The department has instructed all water corporations and regional offices under its jurisdiction to coordinate with the Karnataka State Police and deploy adequate security personnel without delay. It was emphasised that in case of any security lapses, the respective project or dam officers will be held accountable.

The Chief Engineer of the Dam Safety Organisation in Bengaluru has been tasked with collecting and verifying deployment data, and submitting regular updates to the government. Additionally, project officers are required to monitor and report the status of dam security every day, along with any incidents.

Operation Sindoor: 'Special prayers in mosques today'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack, Minister for Minority Welfare B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan said that special prayers will be held on Friday in mosques across Karnataka for Indian soldiers engaged in 'Operation Sindoor', a mission undertaken to protect the nation.

The directive comes in the wake of India's military action carried out on May 7, targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Khan mentioned that special Friday prayers would be held in all mosques under the jurisdiction of the Waqf Board, as well as other mosques in Karnataka, for the well-being and strength of the country's brave soldiers.

Mr. Khan has also written a letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the Waqf Board instructing them to hold prayers in mosques.

Minister of Minority Welfare B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan

On May 7, Karnataka Muzrai and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed the Endowment Department Commissioner to organise special prayers in all temples under the Muzrai Department in honour of the Indian army. The operation was reportedly in response to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 persons lost their lives.

Siddaramaiah to lead 'Tiranga Yatra' today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, the Karnataka Congress has decided to take out a 'Tiranga Yatra' from K.R. Circle to Minsk Square, near M. Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium, from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. on Friday. The yatra will be led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Leaders of all political parties, activists, public, employees of government and private enterprises, writers, thinkers, film personalities, and institutions have been invited to participate in the yatra.

Col. Sofia Qureshi is Belagavi's proud daughter-in-law

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

She was one of the two women officers who briefed the media on Wednesday about India's Operation Sindoor against Pakistan's terror organisations

Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women Army officers who briefed the media about Operation Sindoor on Wednesday, is the daughter-in-law of Belagavi.

She is married to Col. Tajuddin Bagewadi, a native of Konnur village in Gokak taluk of the district.

Col. Sofia is a native of Vadodara (Baroda) in Gujarat district and presently serving in the Jammu region and her husband Tajuddin Bagewadi is serving in the Indian Army in the Jhansi region.

They met while serving in Jhansi and subsequently, got married in 2015 in Vadodara (Baroda).

Speaking to media persons at his home in Konnur village on Thursday, where the name plate "Major Tajuddin Bagewadi, Indian Army" welcomes visitors, Sofia's father-in-law Ghouse Sab Bagewadi said that it is a matter of great pride for him and also for Konnur as she was the daughter-in-law of the village.

Mr. Ghouse Sab Bagewadi said that while they keep visiting the village for family functions and festivals, this year they could not come because they could not get leave.

Giving details of where all the couple have served, including in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and other places, Mr. Bagewadi said that he has asked them to come for Bakrid without fail this time. Mr. Tajuddin Bagewadi is one of the three sons of the elderly Bagewadi.

"In fact, I was not aware of the development. After my friends and relatives started congratulating me, I called my elder son who serves in the Fire Brigade. He told me what my daughter-in-law has done. It felt like I won a lottery. Subsequently, there were many calls and now, people have been coming with garlands to greet me," Mr. Ghouse Sab Bagewadi added.

A photograph of Col. Sofia Qureshi and her husband Col. Tajuddin Bagewadi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

High Court rejects plea of accused for default bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed a bail petition filed by Anirudh Rajan, who was arrested by the Bengaluru city police on charges of being an active member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) and engaged in raising funds for it.

Rajan, 34, who hails from Chennai and was arrested on September 5, 2024, had questioned the order of the trial court, which had rejected his plea for release on default bail as the police had failed to file a chargesheet within 90 days of his arrest.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar and Justice K.S. Hemalekha, said that the police had filed an application seeking extension of time till 180 days to file a chargesheet within 90 stipulated days and hence the petitioner was not entitled to seeking release on bail on the grounds that the chargesheet was not filed within 90 days.

The police had sought 180 days time from the trial court to file a chargesheet after invoking the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Rajan and the trial court had delayed in passing the order on the application filed by the police.

"If the prosecution files an application for extension of time to complete the investigation before the expiry of the statutory period with the report containing compelling reasons for extension, the accused does not acquire an indefeasible right to default bail, even if the trial court grants extension after the expiry of the original period," the Bench said.

In this case, the police had filed the application for extension of time to complete investigation under Section 43-D(2)(b) of the UAPA prior to expiry of the initial mandatory 90 days period, the court said while observing that "merely because the application remained pending at the time when the accused filed the application for default bail, it cannot be said that the accused acquired an indefeasible right to bail..."

Six, including four minors, killed in road accident in Haveri

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Six people, including three minor girls and a minor boy, were killed on the spot and two seriously injured when an SUV hit a truck from behind and overturned on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway near Motebennur in Byadgi taluk of Haveri district on Thursday.

Of the eight people travelling in the SUV, six were killed on the spot and two girls suffered serious injuries.

After providing them with initial treatment at the District Hospital in Haveri, the two injured were sent to KMCRI Hospital in Hubballi for further treatment.

The condition of one of them is said to be serious.

Superintendent of Police of Haveri district Anshukumar gave the names of the deceased as 20-year-old Syed Farhan Syed Inamulla and 11-year-old Ummera Syed Inamulla of Harihar, 22-year-old Alisha Akbar Narangi and 14-year-old Purakhan alias Apnan Akbar Narangi of Mapusa in Goa, 13-year-old Ummesheepa Afroz Udagatti of Ranebennur and 12-year-old Ashiya Khalandar of Dharwad.

Syed Farhan was driving the vehicle.

The injured have been identified as 18-year-old Mehak Rasheed Narangi of Goa and 11-year-old Ummitasqeen Afroz Udagatti of Ranebennur.

The mangled remains of the SUV that rammed a truck near Motebennur in Byadgi taluk of Haveri district on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Anshukumar told presspersons that several families from Ranebennur, Harihar and Goa who were related had planned a trip and were proceeding towards Hubballi from Ranebennur in the SUV and a bus.

While the deceased were travelling by the SUV, the other family members were travelling on the bus that had left earlier.

The accident occurred when the overspeeding SUV lost control while overtaking and hit the truck from behind and overturned, Mr. Anshukumar said.

Byadgi Police have registered a case.

Undergoing treatment: A child at the bone marrow transplant unit run by non-profit organisations at Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

A silent burden: Thalassaemia patients battle disease with hope and hardship

Access to public health for patients with blood disorders like thalassaemia in Karnataka has improved over the years, but it still remains fragmented and inconsistent. Most families spend thousands every month for the long-drawn treatment, and the only permanent curative option is beyond the reach of most, finds **Afshan Yasmeen**

Her day begins with a quiet prayer and a glance at the faded calendar, marked with yet another hospital appointment. For over two decades, Gowramma's life has revolved around needles, blood bags, prescriptions, and silent strength.

Gowramma is the mother of two grown-up children – Tarun and Santosh – both living with thalassaemia, an inherited blood disorder characterised by reduced haemoglobin production.

Every few weeks, the children need blood, life-saving transfusions that keep them alive, but slowly poison their bodies with iron. The medicine to fight this iron overload is expensive, and the bills never stop. The family has a small garment shop at Peenya, an industrial area in the northern part of Bengaluru, and is struggling to meet an avalanche of medical expenses. Gowramma has not been able to get the free medicines from the government-run Victoria Hospital for the last four months.

At Sunkadakatte, a semi-urban locality in west Bengaluru, life is a daily struggle for 19-year-old Mubeena Ruqsar, who lives with her parents. She was diagnosed with beta-thalassaemia major at just six months. Since then, blood transfusions every three weeks, countless needles, and a growing pile of medical records have all been part of her routine.

Her father, Rahmathulla, works as a mechanic in a local garage. Her mother, Sakina Banu, once dreamed of becoming a teacher but now dedicates every waking hour to managing Ruqsar's health – tracking her transfusion schedules and watching for signs of fatigue, fever, or distress. They live in a rented two-room house, and save every extra rupee for hospital visits and medicine. The young adult's treatment involves not just transfusions but also expensive iron chelation therapy.

Access to drugs

These three are among an estimated 10,000 thalassaemia patients in Karnataka, a number that experts say is growing due to the lack of systematic screening and awareness. No government registry is available to document the number of people living with this disorder.

However, despite the growing burden, public health mechanisms remain fragmented. The State established the Karnataka State Blood Cell for the treatment of patients with blood disorders (haemophilia, thalassaemia, and sickle cell anaemia) in 2017. While this Blood Cell – operating under the National Health Mission (NHM) – is coordinating treatment and providing free transfusions in government hospitals, access to quality iron chelation drugs and specialised care remains uneven.

Although the State is providing thalassaemia drugs for free, short supply and lack of access to standardised drugs are proving costly for patients. Patients, who had been dependent on branded drugs by known manufacturers, are now getting only generic medicine manufactured by smaller pharma companies at the government centres. This is because there has been no response from big players to the tenders floated for procuring the drugs post-COVID-19 pandemic. Officials, who expressed helplessness, said according to norms, the tender has been allotted to the lowest bidder among those who participated.

According to data from the State Health Department, as many as 2,288 thalassaemia patients are registered with the 36 Integrated Centres for Haemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia (ICHH) run under the NHM. These centres, which also run day-care centres, provide free iron chelation drugs and blood transfusion services. Nearly half of the total registered patients have enrolled at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) in Bengaluru, which is the nodal centre.

> Stem cell transplants play a vital role in treating blood cancers and blood disorders, including thalassaemia. However, because of genetic diversity, the chances of finding a perfect match within Indian registries are relatively low.
>
> **PATRICK PAUL,** India CEO of DKMS Foundation

While free transfusion services are also provided in all government blood banks, in Bengaluru, Rotary TTK Blood Bank's Bangalore Medical Services Trustand a centre run by Sankalp, an NGO working for thalassaemia, are the two larger transfusion centres. Sankalp also runs a day-care for children at the IGICH and another one at Vasanthnagar, in the central part of the city, where blood transfusions are also done.

Lack of information

Patients from impoverished families, however, do not have sufficient information regarding the free treatment centres. They do not even know where to go to collect free medicines. Gagandeep Singh Chandok, president of the Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society of Bengaluru, says there is a need for quality drugs to be made available freely by the government.

"The availability of free iron chelation drugs is limited to one particular brand in government centres. However, this drug does not suit all patients. Although the Centre's guidelines on haemoglobinopathies clearly say that options such as Desferal injection with infusion pumps should be made available, this is not happening," he says. "With the available drugs not effective, most patients have stopped taking them from the government centres. Several patients have developed side effects such as gastritis and a burning sensation in the throat, with no reduction in iron load. As these expensive drugs need to be taken every day, patients are forced to shell out around ₹20,000 every month. Many cannot afford this," says Chandok.

Apart from the financial burden, thalassaemia patients also face stigma in their day-to-day lives. "This stigma is impacting our social, professional, and personal lives, leading to feelings of isolation, discrimination, and difficulty finding employment or establishing relationships. It is difficult to get leave for regular transfusions, making life difficult," says Chandok.

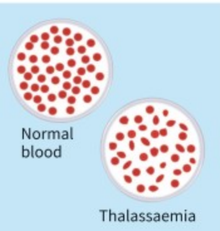
Naveen Bhat Y., State Mission director, National Health Mission, says the government is committed to providing iron chelation drugs for free to increase the life expectancy, ensure a pain-free life, reduce disability, and uplift the standard of living of people with thalassaemia and their families. "There is no shortage of drugs. The centres need to submit an indent and take the drugs from the warehouse," he says.

"It is a matter of concern if the drugs currently being provided to patients are not effective. If patients are developing any side effects or complications, they can inform their doctors at our ICHHs. While we have not received any complaints in this regard from patients or doctors in any of our centres, we will look into this issue and get the potency and efficacy of the drugs tested," Bhat says. He says that six labs in the State – IGICH in Bengaluru, K.R. Hospital in Mysuru, Wenlock District Hospital in Mangaluru, Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences, Ballari District Hospital, and Kalaburagi District Hospital – have been upgraded into nodal centres for blood disorders where high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) tests are done to detect thalassaemia.

What are blood disorders

Thalassaemia, sickle cell disease, and haemophilia are all inherited blood disorders, but they affect different aspects of blood function

Thalassaemia and sickle cell disease are primarily related to haemoglobin production and red blood cell shape



Haemophilia affects the blood's ability to clot

Facilities for thalassaemia patients in Karnataka

- Karnataka State Blood Cell for treatment of patients with blood disorders (haemophilia, thalassaemia, and sickle cell anaemia) set up in 2017
- It is coordinating treatment and providing free transfusions in government hospitals
- Iron chelation drugs provided for free at 36 government-run Integrated Centres for Haemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia

Problems that patients face

- Patients say drugs are not effective and are causing side effects
- Bone marrow transplant (BMT) is the only permanent curative option children with thalassaemia, but access is limited owing to financial and logistical barriers
- Although the State Cabinet approved including BMT under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka, it is yet to operationalise

Bone marrow transplant

Sunil Bhat, director and clinical lead, Paediatric Haematology, Oncology and Blood and Marrow Transplantation, Narayana Health, says bone marrow transplant (BMT) offers the only permanent curative option for children with thalassaemia, but access remains limited due to financial and logistical barriers.

Although the Karnataka State Cabinet approved the inclusion of BMT under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka in January this year, it has not yet become operational.

However, free BMT is being offered to eligible children from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families. Last year, a seven-year-old son of a farmer from Kalaburagi underwent a sibling donor allogeneic BMT at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology for thalassaemia. This is the only BMT done for thalassaemia here so far.

The cost of an autologous BMT ranges from ₹7 lakh to ₹15 lakh in private hospitals, and allogeneic BMTs are even more expensive. The stem cells in autologous transplants come from the same person who will get the transplant, so the patient is his/her own donor. The stem cells in the allogeneic transplants are from a person other than the patient, either a matched related or unrelated donor.

To improve access to transplantation for patients in need, DKMS Foundation India is funding a BMT centre operated by Sankalp India Foundation with the medical advice from Cure2Children on the premises of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital (BMJH) in Bengaluru. All the three are non-profit organisations.

D.M. Mohan Reddy, programme director, Sankalp-BMJH Centre for Paediatric Haemato-oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant, says that overall, 520 free BMTs have been done since 2013 under the programme. "We were earlier running the facility at People Tree Hospital and moved it to BMJH in 2021. Here, we have conducted 230 transplants so far with funding from the DKMS Foundation. For the last six months, we are also getting funds through the COAL India Project," Reddy says.

India CEO of DKMS Patrick Paul says the country faces a shortage of stem cell donors, the core of bone marrow transplants. "Of the total 2,07,553 blood stem cell donors as per our database till April, as many as 42,939 are from Karnataka. Stem cell transplants play a vital role in treating blood cancers and blood disorders, including thalassaemia. However, because of genetic diversity, the chances of finding a perfect match within Indian registries are relatively low, emphasising the need for more donors," he says.

Consanguineous marriages

Vasundhara Kailasnath, paediatric haematologist and BMT physician at Kidwai, says consanguineous marriages significantly increase the risk of a child inheriting thalassaemia. "This is because both parents are more likely to be carriers of the disease. Thalassaemia is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, meaning a child needs to inherit two copies of the faulty gene (one from each parent) to develop the condition," she says.

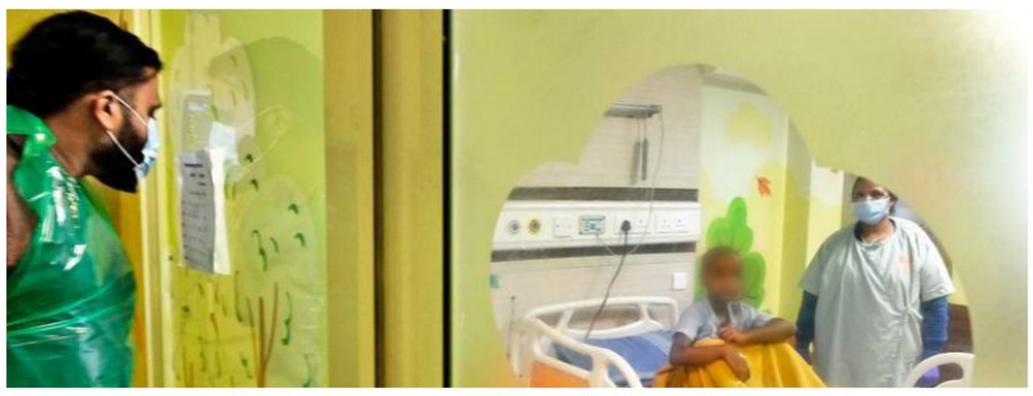
"In Karnataka, studies have identified high prevalence rates especially in north Karnataka districts, apart from Hassan, Chitradurga, and Davangere. There's also evidence of a high number of carriers and patients needing regular blood transfusions from these districts," she says.

According to data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), Karnataka has the second-highest number of consanguineous marriages. While Tamil Nadu tops the list, where 27.9% of the female population is married to close blood relatives such as cousins, uncles, and brothers-in-law, Karnataka follows with 26.6%. The national average is far lower at 11%, according to the survey that was conducted between 2019 and 2021.

Besides, Karnataka has the highest number of women aged 15 to 49 married to a first cousin from their mother's side. While 13.9% of the female population in the State is married to a cousin from the mother's side, 9.6% is married to a cousin from the father's side. Marriages to a woman's second cousin and uncle were at 0.5% and 0.2%, respectively, according to the report.

Pointing out that people marrying within the family should get tested, Vasundhara Kailasnath says, "Carrier screening, prenatal testing (HPLC), and genetic counselling, apart from public awareness and education, can help reduce the risk of passing on the disorder from parents to children."

(Names of patients and their parents have been changed on request.)



Bone marrow transplant offers the only permanent curative option for children with thalassaemia, but access remains limited due to financial and logistical barriers, according to experts. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Time and again Actor Prakash Belawadi, a scene from one of his plays. PRAVEEN S AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

Prakash Belawadi on AI, theatre, and the future of performance

'Holograms could replace actors'

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

When I meet Prakash Belawadi at Yuvaka Sangha, three afternoons before the start of the inaugural Chiguru, a Kannada theatre festival, he is in the thick of rehearsals for *eDabidandi (Corporate Files)*. His focus is unwavering as he fine-tunes the actors.

In a scene between a father and son, he tells the actor playing the father, "He won't come and sit by himself. You need to pull him and make him sit." Then, turning to me, he adds with a wry smile, "There is very little time, you see. We are staging the play on the first day of the festival."

A reluctant actor

Prakash Belawadi is a name that carries weight in Kannada theatre. His journey began as a child actor in *Abachurina Postofficu* (1973), and despite early roles, acting was not his initial ambition.

Growing up in a theatre-immersed household, he was drawn more to the technical aspects of stagecraft, particularly lighting. At 15, he worked on lighting for Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT), refining his skills and eventually transitioning into directing in the mid-'80s.

His cinematic breakthrough came much later. Though he had acted sporadically, it was *Madras Cafe* (2013) that truly launched his film career.

His role in Shoojit Sircar's political thriller led to opportunities in *Talvar*, *Airlift*, and numerous Kannada and Tamil films. Today, with over 90 films and multiple web series to his name, he remains a sought-after actor, receiving offers almost every week.

Vision for Chiguru

Prakash's vision for Chiguru stems from his concern for Bengaluru's evolving cultural landscape.

"In the '70s, Bengaluru was the epicentre of a Kannada Renaissance, akin to the San Francisco Renaissance," he recalls. It was a period of artistic and intellectual ferment, but this creative boom began to wane in the '90s, as rapid liberalisation and globalisation transformed Bengaluru.

"Many of us felt this sense of loss," he says, explaining how increased urbanisation and shifting economic priorities pushed theatre to the margins. While initiatives like Rangashankara helped rejuvenate the scene, Prakash believes more needs to be done. This is where Chiguru comes in.

"We collaborated with the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA) to revive Kannada theatre – not just Kannada, but other languages too," he explains. The idea is to foster a truly cosmopolitan theatre culture, where plays in Hindi, Bengali, and other languages find a home in Bengaluru.

AI and theatre

When the conversation shifts to artificial intelligence, Prakash presents a pragmatic yet sobering perspective. "Every generation feared the death of theatre when new technology arrived – first cinema, then television. Yet, theatre survives. It's harder to stage plays, but people continue to do theatre," he says.

However, he acknowledges that AI is different. The ability to generate deepfake videos with near-perfect lip sync has already transformed media consumption. "I saw a fake video of Trump telling Zelensky about World War III. It wasn't real, but it was seamless. AI can now replicate my voice, body, and acting style. I could license my persona as an NFT and get paid royalties without ever stepping onto a set. This isn't the future; it's already happening."

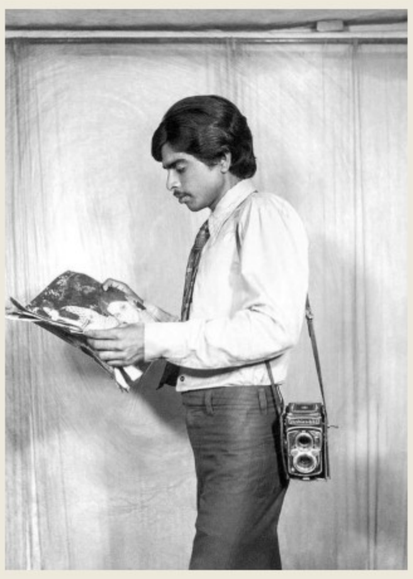
Prakash predicts that AI will radically disrupt the film industry. "Actors are replaceable because we have made distribution and exhibition so fussy. Now, anyone with a story can find a producer, use AI, and make a film. AI can resurrect Dr. Rajkumar for Kannada cinema or MGR for Tamil. If it makes money, someone will do it," he states matter-of-factly. He also sees an imminent end for dubbing artists: "In a few years, AI will eliminate them entirely. The technology isn't widespread yet, but it will be."

But theatre, he believes, will endure. "In the distant future, holograms might replace actors on stage. But it's not economically viable to run daily theatre productions with holograms for live audiences. Theatre is sacred because it requires presence. Actors bring their bodies to tell a story, and the audience brings theirs to experience it. This shared space and time create true *rasa* – an aesthetic that cinema lacks because its performers are only recorded, not present."

He also argues that live performance is one of the last strongholds of artistic freedom. "Protest, resistance, and subversion thrive in live performance spaces. That's why theatre will survive, even in an AI-dominated world."

From script to screen

This workshop at MAP will go into the details of film making



Action packed The upcoming session will help hone one's filmmaking talent. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Attention all young cinephiles! Museum of Art and Photography Bengaluru invites you to a two-day, hands-on film workshop led by acclaimed filmmaker Koel Sen. Designed for participants aged 18 to 25, this event promises to delve into the art and craft of filmmaking.

Over two packed days, participants will explore the essentials of video creation, including script writing, storytelling, cinematography, editing, and post-production. The first day will reveal the magic behind compelling narratives, offering insights into writing and visualising stories. Participants will enjoy a curated film screening and collaborate on group projects, guided by Koel's expertise.

Day two will shift the focus behind the camera, as participants shoot their own short films and refine them through hands-on editing and post-production sessions. The grand finale will be a showcase of all the completed works that will offer a chance for emerging creators to watch their visions come alive on screen.

Koel Sen, known for her innovative blending of personal archives and marginalised histories, brings a wealth of international experience. With accolades such as the Emerging Talent Award at IAWRT Philippines and recognition as a Berlinale Talent 2023, Koel's mentorship promises to inspire and empower the next generation of filmmakers.

Cinema has long been a mirror to society, reflecting dreams, struggles, and change. For young artists, this workshop offers not only technical skills, but also a chance to engage deeply with the power of moving images.

On May 10 and 11. Seats are limited and laptops/smartphones are compulsory. Registration is free at map-india.org.

'I like my films to be self-explanatory'

In this post-release interview, director Sailesh Kolanu opens up on key aspects of crime action drama *HIT: The Third Case*

Sangeetha Devi Dundoo
sangeethadevi.k@thehindu.co.in

HIT: The Third Case, or *HIT 3*, starring Nani and Srinidhi Shetty, has brought cheer to the box office, crossing the ₹100 crore mark. Its director Sailesh Kolanu is relieved, happy and filled with gratitude.

Excerpts from the interview:

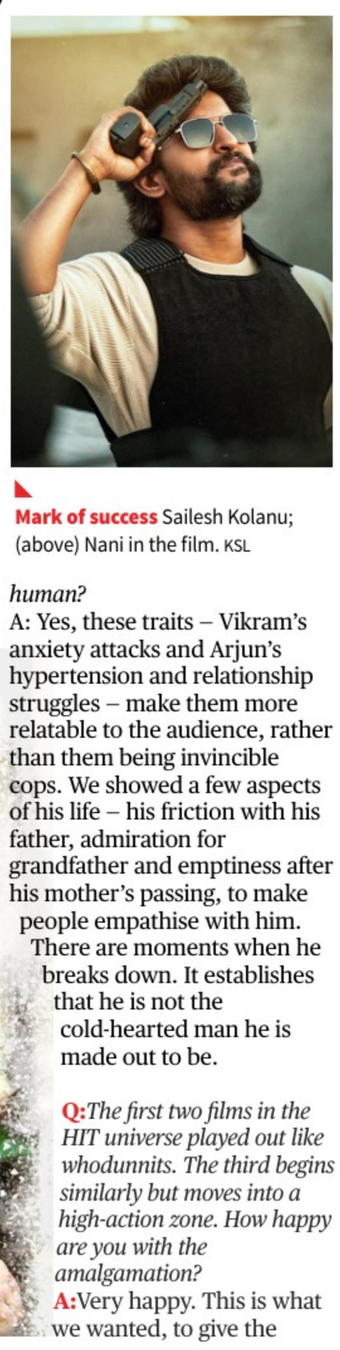
Question: *Tell us about the joy and challenges of directing actors of whom you have been a big fan – Venkatesh in Saindhav and Nani in HIT 3?*

Answer: Initially, going to the sets and saying 'action' and 'cut' to the stars I greatly admire was overwhelming. Slowly I told myself that there is a job at hand; I have been entrusted the task of making a good film. It took me a week to stop treating Nani like a star. He gave me a pep talk to put me at ease.

Q: *In two instances in HIT 3, dialogues refer to Nani's career and image. How do you decide how much fan service can be done while still staying true to the story?*

A: These dialogues were not premeditated and incorporated into the film. As I was working on the screenplay, I thought it would be fun to have these meta references. Those moments are evoking great response in the theatres since they work in the context of the actor as well as the story.

Q: *Vikram Rudraraju (Vishwak Sen) in the first film and Arjun Sarkaar (Nani) in the third film have their vulnerabilities. The former has PTSD and the latter is on the verge of midlife crisis. Is the intention to make these cops more human?*



Mark of success Sailesh Kolanu; (above) Nani in the film. KSL

A: Yes, these traits – Vikram's anxiety attacks and Arjun's hypertension and relationship struggles – make them more relatable to the audience, rather than them being invincible cops. We showed a few aspects of his life – his friction with his father, admiration for grandfather and emptiness after his mother's passing, to make people empathise with him. There are moments when he breaks down. It establishes that he is not the cold-hearted man he is made out to be.

Q: *The first two films in the HIT universe played out like whodunnits. The third begins similarly but moves into a high-action zone. How happy are you with the amalgamation?*

A: Very happy. This is what we wanted, to give the audience a theatrical experience. I wanted the transition to be seamless, so that the audience does not feel a disconnect with the *HIT*-verse. We began with the investigation and transitioned into a survival thriller.

Q: *Mickey J Meyer's background score is unconventional. What was your brief to him?*

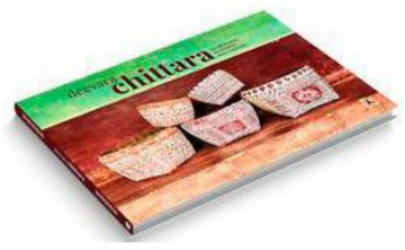
A: My brief to him was to keep the audience at the edge of their seats, and make them go berserk during theatrical moments. We wanted the music to work in the background, without pre-empting the emotions or screaming for attention. I prefer it that way. I want people to say they watched a good film, rather than single out the music or some other aspect. A film has to work as a whole. His music was in a new-age zone, using percussion and rhythm.

Q: *The choice of the antagonist (name withheld to avoid spoilers) is also interesting. What made you cast someone who is unlike the macho villains we usually see in Telugu cinema?*

I like this actor's work a lot. If you notice, he is amiable when he receives Arjun Sarkaar and slowly his darker side is revealed. We did not reveal a backstory to address questions as to what made him the way he is, since nothing can justify his behaviour. In fact, many serial killers, like the ones shown on Netflix's *Dahmer*, do not know the reason for their behaviour.

Scan QR code for the complete video interview

STEPOUT



Creative documentation

The book, *Deevara Chittara,* produced by Center for Revival of Indigenous Art (CFRIA), will be launched in Bengaluru. It is a visual documentation of indigenous folk art painting Chittara, practised in Karnataka's Malenadu region. The book is co-authored by Geetha Bhat and Smitha Tumuluru and is published by Prism Books.

At the Indian Instituite of World Culture on May 10. Call 9886064822 for details.

Stepping it up

Vyjayanthi Kashi, a Kuchipudi exponent, will present a dance performance, where she will be joined by her daughter Prateeksha Kashi and the Shambhavi Dance Ensemble. Curated by Shibulal Family Philanthropic Initiatives, the dance is a tribute to the journey of mythology, poetry and emotions.

At Bangalore International Centre, on May 10, 6pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Karnataka's MMR dips, but is still highest among southern States

The six-point decline in Karnataka is the highest among southern States, followed by T.N. where MMR has reduced by five points. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala have shown a reverse trend with an increase in MMR by one or two points

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined by six points from 69 per lakh live births in 2018-20 to 63 in 2019-21, indicating that the number of women dying during childbirth has come down significantly.

Although the decline rate is less than half of what was achieved in 2018-20 – when MMR had reduced by 14 points from 83 per lakh live births in 2017-18 to 69 in 2018-20 – Karnataka is one of the eight States in the country that have achieved the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target much ahead of schedule. In terms of percentage, the State's MMR has dropped by 8.7%.

The United Nations had set the SDG target of reaching an MMR of 70 per lakh live births by 2030. This target had been fixed as a mark of improved health outcomes for the developing world. The MMR is a significant indicator that defines the public health of a State. It determines the progress made by States in saving the lives of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation.

Karnataka's MMR has been declining since 2016. It had reduced by nine points from 92 per lakh live births in 2016-18 to 83 in 2017-19, during the pre-COVID-19 period. In 2014-16, the State's MMR was 108, and it reduced to 97 in 2015-17. Officials said the lesser decline in 2019-21 could be because of the pandemic.

According to the latest Sample Registration System 2019-21 bulletin for the MMR released by the Registrar-General of India on Wednesday, Karnataka's MMR continues to be the highest among the five southern States.

However, the six-point decline in Karnataka is also the highest, followed by Tamil Nadu, where the MMR has reduced by five points. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala have shown a reverse trend with an increase in MMR by one or two points.

Despite the increase, Kerala tops the list with the lowest MMR at 20 per lakh live births, followed by Maharashtra at 38 per lakh live births. Madhya Pradesh has the highest MMR at 175 per lakh live births.

While Assam has recorded the highest decline in the MMR by 28 points, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh follow by 18 and 16 points, respectively. Overall, seven States have shown an increase in the MMR with the highest increase of five points in Maharashtra.

Collective effort

Attributing the decline in the MMR to the collective efforts of health workers who have created awareness on institutional deliveries, Rajkumar N., State Deputy Director (Maternal Health), said that apart from consistent political commitment, improved governance and accountability system had helped achieve this.

"According to the Civil Registration System (CRS), Karnataka's current MMR stands at about 57, and we have an ambitious goal to reduce maternal deaths further to 45 by the end of the current fiscal year," he said.

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), told *The Hindu* that Karnataka's progress underscores the critical role of strategic investments and policy focus in improving maternal outcomes.

After the Ballari scare

"Following the Ballari maternal deaths in November last year, we launched a 'Mission Zero Preventable Deaths' initiative. This involves a comprehensive strategy, including upgrading mother and child hospitals to improve service delivery, rationalising human resources for taluk-level hospitals, capacity building and skill enhancement of healthcare providers. Besides, improving maternal nutrition through coordinated efforts between multiple departments is also part of this initiative," he said.

"We are on a positive trend, and we will continue with the same momentum. We are working on filling the policy-level gaps and we require the support of all field workers, doctors, and the general public for this," he said.

Karnataka is one of the eight States in the country that has achieved the Sustainable Development Goal target set by the United Nations of reaching an MMR of 70 per lakh live births by 2030. FILE PHOTO

Maternal Mortality Ratio in Karnataka

The State has retained its 8th position in the country

Declining trend in MMR*	
2011-2013	133
2014-2016	108
2015-2017	97
2016-2018	92
2017-2019	83
2018-2020	69
2019-2021	63

*per lakh live births

What audit report said

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a sudden spurt in maternal deaths in Ballari last year, a government-constituted technical team of health experts – which audited 464 maternal deaths that occurred between April and December 2024 – found that 70% of the maternal deaths in Karnataka could have been prevented.

While 65% (305) of these deaths occurred in public health facilities, 22% (103) of them occurred in private hospitals.

A significant number of the deaths (380, i.e. 82%) occurred between the time of childbirth and 42 days after delivery.

According to the interim maternal death audit report submitted to the government, the deaths could have been prevented if correct decisions were made at the right time regarding the treatment plans adopted at the facility level for risk factors such as anaemia, hypertensive disorders, gestational diabetes, and such conditions that develop during pregnancy.

Labour unions, factories dept. resist as Centre brings pressure to change laws

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Amid pressure by the Centre to bring changes to the Factories Act, 1948, to ensure "ease of doing business", two Karnataka government departments are not seeing eye-to-eye on the issue. While the Department of Factories, Boilers, Industrial Safety and Health is opposed to the idea, the Department of Industries is learnt to be keen on making the changes.

Trade unions on Thursday urged the State government to reject the proposals for changes that have come from the Union government.

The amendment to labour laws is among several other proposals, including changes to land use, building and construction, utilities, and permission, made by the Centre to make compliance reduction and de-regulation to ensure "ease of doing business".

Representatives of the eight trade unions met officials on Thursday and expressed their objections to the proposals, Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) source said. "We told the government specifically that it is succumbing to the employer lobby by pushing anti-labour amendments. We have opposed all the labour-related proposals and changes proposed to the Factories Act," M. Satyanand, secretary, All-India Trade Union Congress, said.

On women employers

The Department of Factories, Boilers, Industrial Safety and Health is eliciting opinion from the stakeholders regarding the dilution of conditions on employing women in night shift, employing women in hazardous industries, increase daily working hours to 10 hours from eight, and increasing the threshold for factories to be brought within the ambit of the Factories Act. Sources said that the Factories Department is opposed to these proposal while the Industries Department is pushing for changes.

Currently, in Karnataka, women are prohibited from being employed in 14 hazardous operations, and the proposal is to consider permitting women (except pregnant and lactating mothers) to work in all occupations. The Centre has cited examples of "best practises" employed in States which have removed such prohibition.

On night shift

The other major proposal is to dilute 16 conditions that are in place to allow night-time employment of women (7 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in all occupations under the Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2023. The proposal is to replace the requirement for women to work in batches of 10 and for at least one-third of supervisors to be women with a requirement to install CCTV cameras. The proposal also seeks to do away with the requirement of securing biodata of drivers and pre-employment screening. It also proposes to remove the condition of having women security guards at entry and exit gates.

The Centre has suggested doing away with the condition of night creche, removing the condition of women not being picked up last and dropped first, and having women security guards in transport. The reason for seeking changes is to cut the costs for employers.

Karnataka has also been asked by the Centre to consider revising working hour limits to 10 hours within the weekly 48 hours of work and overtime of 144 hours in a quarter. This is being done to favour the garment industry that works on a single shift, a source in the JCTU said. The proposal to increase the threshold for the applicability of the Factories Act from 10 to 20 workers also came up for discussion. "More than 7,000 factories and 1.1 lakh workers will move away from the ambit of the Factories Act if the applicability clause is changed. This will make way for more work being outsourced from large factories to sweatshops," said K.V. Bhat, secretary of the All-India United Trade Union Centre.

Trade unions on Thursday urged the State government to reject the proposals for changes that have come from the Centre. FILE PHOTO

HC dismisses plea of three minor Pakistani nationals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by three minor Pakistani nationals, who had sought directions to authorities to allow them to stay in Mysuru till May 15, and not to take any coercive action against them till then, as they would be leaving India after attending a marriage ceremony to be held on May 12.

The court took note of the fact that the Union government, based on a decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security, had revoked various types of visas given to Pakistani nationals and asked them to leave India by April 27 after the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22.

Conscious decision

The Indian government had taken a conscious decision in the interest of the safety and security of its citizens, and the court will not interfere in such a decision, said Justice M.G. Uma while dismissing the petition.

They had sought directions to authorities to allow them to stay in Mysuru till May 15

The petitioners, Bibi Yamina, 8, Muhammad Mudassir, 4, and Muhammad Yusaf, 3, all permanent residents of Balochistan, Pakistan, had filed their petition represented by their Indian mother, Ramsha Jahan, a native of Mysuru, who has been residing with her husband, Muhammed Farooq, a Pakistani national, following their marriage in 2015.

The petitioners, along with their mother, had come to Mysuru on January 4, 2025, on a visitor visa that was initially valid up to February 17, 2025, and later got extended till June 18, 2025.

At the border

It was claimed in the petition that the petitioners, along with their mother, reached the Attari border on April 28 to leave India, but had to return to Mysuru as their father did not turn up to receive them at the border, and Pakistan had closed its border even for its own citizens. The Foreigners Registration Office, Mysuru, issued exit permission to the petitioners on April 26 as per the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs and asked them to leave India by April 30.

The petitioners had said that their mother had written to the police authorities in Mysuru to allow them to stay till May 15 in view of a marriage of their aunt scheduled to be held in Mysuru on May 11/12, for which they had come to India. They had sought a direction to the police and other authorities not to take any coercive step against them by undertaking that they would leave India by May 15.

Tree protection Act needs to be amended: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Forest and Environment, Eshwar B. Khandre, on Thursday favoured the need to amend The Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 in order to take strict action and impose higher fines on those who illegally cut down trees on government land, forests, and roadsides.

Responsibility of all

Speaking at a Karnataka Development Programme Monthly Management Review (MMR) meeting on Thursday, Mr. Khandre said that even the Supreme Court had objected to the cutting down of large numbers of trees. "In view of global warming and climate change, it is the responsibility of all to protect trees," he said.

The Minister pointed out that recently there had been instances of public outrage over the approval given to cut down hundreds of trees in the name of development. "In this regard, permission should not be granted for unnecessary tree cutting," he said.

On encroachment of forestland, he said that there should be zero tolerance and anyone who had encroached forest land after 2015 must be evicted without leniency.

Information sought

He also instructed officials to provide information about encroachments, evictions, and actions taken in the last two years.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Applications have been invited for the three-year Diploma in Handloom and Textile Technology (DHTT) for the academic year 2025-26. Candidates with SSLC pass or an equivalent examination with English are eligible. Merit will be based on aggregate marks. The age limit is 15 to 23 years for general category and 15 to 25 years for SC/ST candidates, as on July 1, 2025.

A total of 39 students will be selected.

Application forms can be obtained from district handloom offices or downloaded from https://khtigadag.ac.in.

Police inspector suspended

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Belagavi Police Commissioner Iada Martin Marbianang has issued an order suspending Camp Police Station inspector Altaf Hussain Mulla on the charge of security lapse during the Chief Minister's programme on CPED Ground in Belagavi recently. Already, two police constables have been suspended in connection with the incident. Now, inspector Altaf Hussain Mulla has been suspended for security lapse.

PRASAR BHARATI
(India's Public Service Broadcaster)
DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, BENGALURU

Applications are invited for the post of stringers from eligible candidates in 29 districts.

Last date for submitting the application is **16.05.2025**. Details regarding the qualification, experience and application format are available at **https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pbvacancies/**

The applications should be submitted along with DD through Speed Post/ Registered Post only.

Sd/- Director (News)
Doordarshan Kendra, Bengaluru

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

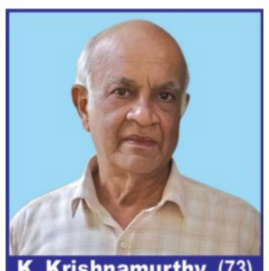
Respectful pranams at the lotus feet of
Our beloved Guru Pujyashri Mathioli Saraswathy
09.05.2025

You are always with us
and we are always guided by your divine light.

அன்றும், இன்றும், என்றும் எங்கள் உள்ளங்களில்
நிரந்தரமாக வாழும் தெய்வம்

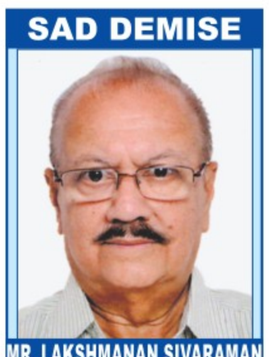
-Devotees

DEATH



K. Krishnamurthy, (73)
Trustee & Editor,
Krishnamurti Foundation India,
Former Journalist at
The Indian Express & The Hindu
passed away on May 7, 2025
Krishnamurti Foundation India

SAD DEMISE



MR. LAKSHMANAN SIVARAMAN
Retd. Automobile Engineer, aged 81, a resident of Pai Layout, Bengaluru, passed away on Wednesday 7th May 2025 after a brief illness.
He is survived by his wife Mrs Prabha Sivaraman.
Funeral will be held on 9th May 2025, at 11:00 am, at Panathur Cremation Centre, Bengaluru.

Soaring school fees turn private education into a luxury for parents in Bengaluru

Many of them complain that the annual increase in school fee does not seem to follow any logical pattern. The government, meanwhile, does not appear to be keen on regulation

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

At the start of every academic year, Guru Raj braces to shell out money for more than just new uniforms and textbooks for his son. There is always that inevitable email announcing a fee hike from his son's private school in Nagarbhavi locality in Bengaluru. Across the city, parents like Guru Raj face the annual trauma of school fee hikes. While adjusting for inflation is to be anticipated, there is no clear justification for the quantum of hike.

What once seemed like a reasonable investment in quality education has now begun to feel like a financial stretch for many parents. According to many parents, teachers and education activists, the fees for nursery-level education at some schools in the city are going up to ₹2 lakh per year and higher classes up to ₹15 lakh. As one of India's fastest-growing urban centres, Bengaluru has long been considered a hub for educational excellence. But the city's booming real estate, competitive academic landscape, and rising operational costs are now pushing private education into the realm of luxury.

According to parents, teachers and education activists, the fees for nursery-level education at some schools in the city are going up to ₹ 2 lakh per year and that for higher classes up to ₹15 lakh. FILE PHOTO

Multiple burdens

Shalini S., a mother of two said, "With cost of living rising, exorbitant fees are adding to our existing problems. I have two sons, and want them to go to the finest schools, but with Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Board schools and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools getting expensive, sending them to schools under the State Board is the only option we have now."

Jayanthi Mahesh, another parent, said that switching schools is also not an option. "A marginal hike in fees is understandable, but this drastic increase puts us in a difficult situation. And this is something that is happening almost every year. We can not change schools because we would need to pay admission fees and other costs again, which is more than the fee hike, yet staying means paying significantly higher fees," she explained.

According to Prashanth Kumar, a HR professional and a parent, schools refusing to explain the hikes is a key issue. "I have two children who go to two different schools. Every year, both these private schools hike fees by 20%-40%, no explanation, no improvement, just a new demand. Parents already struggling with job cuts, rising taxes, and home loans, are drowning financially and giving their children basic education has also become a struggle."

Even teachers admit to this problem. Vaishnavi K. (name changed), a school teacher who has worked with some of the well-known private schools having multiple branches in Bengaluru, said that recommending schools she works in is not her first choice. "A lot of my friends or relatives come to me asking for recommendations for schools for their children. I work with multiple schools as a freelancer, and they are top-notch, but when it comes to suggesting these schools to my close ones, I take a step back. Most of these schools charge anywhere from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh just for nursery level education, and it just goes on increasing from primary and high school level. What is worse is that these schools charge an additional fee for transport, uniform, books, extracurricular activities and more, which translates to more than the fees of many less popular private schools that are not preferred by parents," she added.

Private schools are allowed to increase their fees by 10% to 12% per annum, depending on the infrastructure and other facilities, making sure they publish the fee structure on the notice board of the school. FILE PHOTO

No room for regulation?

In April this year, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) had issued notices to three private schools in Bengaluru that follow the Central Board curriculum, following allegations that they are "unscientifically" charging exorbitant tuition and textbook fees. Private schools are allowed to increase their fees by 10% to 12% per annum, depending on the infrastructure and other facilities, making sure they publish the fee structure on the notice board of the school. The schools must also submit a report to the government in this regard. However, so far, no fee regulation has been formed at the government level to monitor this.

Responding to this, a couple of days ago, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa had said to the media, "The government does not have the power to regulate private school fees. If we fix fees, private school managements will go to court. Therefore, if parents cannot pay fees to private schools, they can enroll their children in government schools. In addition to good education, in government schools, they also get books, uniforms, milk, eggs, and midday meals free of cost."

D. Shashikumar, General Secretary of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, told *The Hindu* that the attitude of parents also needs to be questioned. "Every year, there is a price hike in school fees of around 10-15%, if there is any hike beyond that we advise schools not to do so. The elite schools that charge a fee of ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh for nursery level and up to ₹15 lakh for primary and high school hike their fees every year by 6-8%, and schools that charge beyond the said amount hike fees by more than 10%. These types of schools are only 0.5% to 3% of the total number of schools in the State. However, by and large 95% of the schools charge a fee of not more ₹10,000 to ₹50,000. It is the parents who want to send their children to prestigious and expensive schools and do not really care about the methodology of teaching which is the same in the affordable schools." he argued.

Shashikumar, however, added that their Association does not support regulation of fees as the government does not have the power to regulate fees and bring in rigid rules.

Implementation of RTE

Senior academician and education expert Dr. Niranjanaradhya V.P. said that effective implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act could solve many of these problems. "Any law-making process takes its own time, but given the conflict of interest and the people who are running private institutions, they are indirectly our policy makers. So, you can not expect them to regulate fees and other issues in private institutions," he said.

"Under Section 2(B) RTE defines "capitation fee" as any donation, contribution, or payment other than the regular fee notified by the school. This should be put up on their website or noticeboard. This provision ensures that parents are not burdened with additional financial obligations beyond the established fee structure, which is designed to facilitate their right to free and compulsory education. When schools do not follow this, they attract a penalty for violation according to Section 13 of the RTE Act. The State can act against such schools, but unfortunately, none of these schools publish the fee structure or it is not noticed by the government as parents are in a hurry to enroll their children and do not question these schools," he explained.

Dr. Niranjanaradhya said that though RTE does not specify a law for regulation, Article 19(6) of the Constitution allows the state to control or regulate educational institutions in the interest of the public. "The State has every right to enact legislation for the prescription of the fees. Almost every State in India, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and more, have a regularised fee structure for schools. In most of these States, the fee structure is approved by the parents and the management after multiple discussions, but with no regulation in Karnataka, everything is decided by the school management. With Karnataka being a pioneer in privatisation, 60% of children studying in private schools and this being one of the most progressive states in the country, fee regulation is the only way forward," he explained.

Theatrenama brings small-town stories alive

Written and directed by Sandeep Shikhar, the play, according to the synopsis by the team, is set in Advocate Mukherjee Street in a North Indian town and revolves around the hair-cutting salon run by the protagonist, Bachchan

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Theatrenama Repertory, a Bengaluru-based theatre troupe, is set to present its new Hindi play, *Deluxe Hair Cutting Salon*, at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, on May 10 and May 11, at 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on both days.

Written and directed by Sandeep Shikhar, the play, according to the synopsis by the team, is set in Advocate Mukherjee Street in a North Indian town and revolves around the hair-cutting saloon run by the protagonist, Bachchan. The street is full of lawyers, and in Bachchan's limited worldview, that is the most revered profession in the world.

Courtroom drama

Bachchan gets mixed up every day with somebody in the neighborhood, especially the owners of the next-door pathological lab and the motor garage. These daily run-ins result in the protagonist's dreaming of a courtroom drama every night involving the characters from the neighborhood, leading to exciting revelations about their lives.

The play explores through its characters' lives as to how seemingly opposite behaviours, incidents, and actions could be two sides of the same coin, said the synopsis.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the director said that the play was inspired by his own life, "The inspiration for the play is Dhanbad, where I grew up, and a mining township in Jharkhand where I hail from. The characters and their back stories have been inspired by people I know, but I added a little twist of my own. Having grown up on a street named Gyan Mukharjee Road in Dhanbad, surrounded by lawyers, I spent my entire childhood seeing these characters. It left a huge impression on me. In small towns, a barber's shop still rules the roost as far as gossip is concerned because this is where you get to know what is going on in your neighbourhood. The play also juxtaposes the lives of these simple people with those who represent the so-called white collared jobs," he said.

A scene from the rehearsal of the play, *Deluxe Hair Cutting Salon*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sandeep said the play was written almost 14 years ago and he made changes over the years to suit the current context. "When I direct my own play, I always assume as if I am directing some other playwright's play. While directing one must look at the play from many perspectives," he said. Sandeep added that the play has a universal appeal and can be relatable for all kinds of audience, "This play is not about very rich or poor people, it is not about from which background these characters belong, it is about simple people and their simple aspirations. Every character in this play has a problem which they deal with and get on with life along with sharing and enjoying life's little joys," he explained. The director added that working with the actors of Theatrenama repertory for this production added to the quality of the play and made direction easier for him.

Deluxe Hair Cutting Salon is performed by Akash Dutta, Anas Syed, Yeeshu Prateek, Anubhav Chaturvedi, Aditya Mudgal, Bhavya Buwal, Puja Panicker, Priyanshu Kumar, Atul Rai and Pawan Gayakar. Priced at ₹400, tickets for the show are available on BookMyShow and the Jagriti Theatre box-office.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1975

Anti-Urs Group Fails to Muster Needed Strength

Bangalore: The fate of a requisition for a meeting of the Karnataka Legislature Congress party, sought by 48 party members to discuss opposition charges against the Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs and his Government hung in balance to-night with reports that more than ten of the signatories of the requisition had retracted. The requisition was submitted to the Secretary of the Legislature Congress party, last night, and was conveyed by him to the Chief Minister this morning. The reported withdrawal of consent by 10 members for the requisition brings the number of signatories below the minimum required ie., 41 which is one fifth of the total party strength of 201.

Dharwad Khadi Units Survive Ordeals

Dharwad: Khadi of late has acquired the reputation of being synonymous with a losing proposition. At a time when planters and administrators have been entertaining serious misgivings about the efficacy of the movement and its role in living up to its objective of helping the rural economy, the performance of some of the institutions connected with the movement has come as a silver lining. One such institution is the Dharwad Taluk Seva Sangha.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Sawai Gandharva as Gangubai's guru

Gangubai pursued Hindustani classical music from her Guru Sawai Gandharva of the famous Kirana gharana tradition at Kundagol. He was born Ramachandra Kundgolkar Saunshi on January 19, 1886, in Kundagol, Karnataka. He was a leading disciple of Ustad Abdul Karim Khan, the Kirana Gharana's founder. He is well known for his performances in Marathi theatre.

From Carnatic to Hindustani music

Gangubai was initially trained in Carnatic music due to her family's Devadasi background. Later, she transitioned to Hindustani music under the guidance of her guru Sawai Gandharva.
From her dedication she could master several ragas.
She also rose to prominence performing Hindustani music in India and abroad.

Hangal Music Foundation

Established in 2008 by the Government of Karnataka, the museum was initially managed by the Hangal Music Foundation. The visitors came to have a peek at Gangubai's musical legacy. The museum had displays of her accolades, including the Padma Bhushan (1971) and Padma Vibhushan (2002). A tanpura gifted by the Hangal Foundation was a key exhibit there.

Gangubai's cherished tulsi plant

The museum housed a tulsi plant that was once cherished by Gangubai. The museum was restored with the help of INTACH and Nirmithi Kendra, Dharwad, using stabilised mud blocks. The museum has been closed since 2019 owing to maintenance issues and lack of funds. The museum was inaugurated by B.S. Yediyurappa, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka.

No restoration in place for the museum

Despite assurances of restoration, nothing has been done to fulfil the dreams of the music fraternity. The museum has been closed since 2019 owing to maintenance issues and lack of funds.
A family dispute and the department's lack of enthusiasm have delayed the restoration despite funds being allocated for it.

Gangubai Hangal's childhood home in Dharwad in a state of neglect

Although Gangubai moved to Hubballi at the age of around 14, she had her childhood memories attached to the Dharwad house

A view of 'Gangotri', in a restored state on September 2008. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Inside 'Gangotri' after restoration in 2008. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Potraits from inside the museum after restoration in 2008. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa receiving a memento from noted Hindustani singer Gangubai Hangal. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

K. Bhagya Prakash
DHARWAD

There is a famous saying in Kannada that if you throw a stone, it will land on the house of either an artist or a scholar in Dharwad, a town in north Karnataka known for its rich cultural and literary heritage.

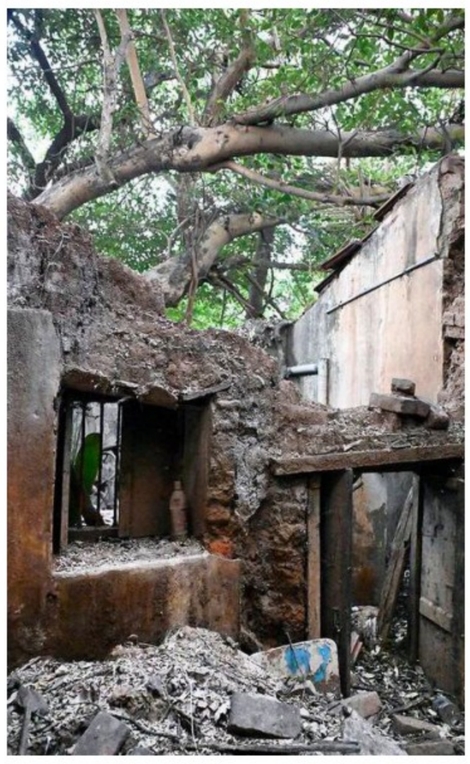
Among several places of cultural importance, Dharwad has the house of legendary vocalist and doyenne of Hindustani classical music Gangubai Hangal, which is located at Shukravarada Pete in the city.

Although Gangubai moved to Hubballi at the age of around 14 to pursue Hindustani classical music from her Guru Sawai Gandharva of the famous Kirana gharana tradition at Kundagol, she had her childhood memories attached to the Dharwad house.

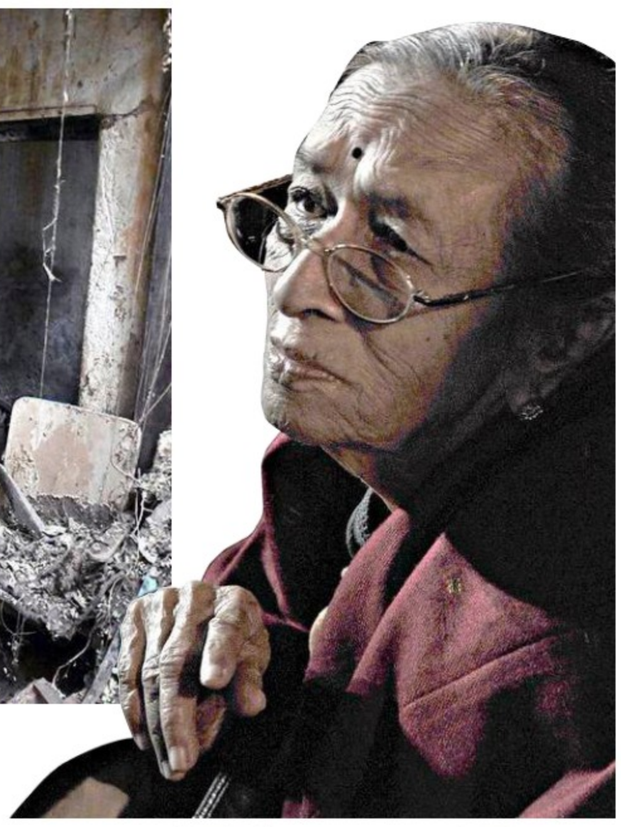
Music lovers and her family members, therefore, were keen on converting the house into a museum to reflect her musical journey. It was to serve as a cultural platform for the future generations too. The house was bought by the district administration to restore it as a heritage building. After the restoration, it was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa along with eminent personalities in the presence of 96-year-old Gangubai Hangal in 2008.

After her death in 2009, the house was maintained for a couple of years, but later it fell into disuse and neglect. The departments started blaming each other, but is now in a dilapidated condition. Despite assurances of restoration, nothing has ben done to fulfil the dreams of the music fraternity. The house which was a symbol of past glory, now stands as an example of sheer official apathy.

'Gangotri' house of renowned Hindustani classical singer, Gangubai Hangal, which was converted into a museum by the Karnataka Government, is now in dilapidated condition at Dharwad. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH



The museum has been in such a bad state since 2019, with no restoration plans in sight. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH



Gangubai Hangal
K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Nipah resurfaces in Kerala's Malappuram

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Nipah has resurfaced in Malappuram district of Kerala with a 42-year-old woman testing positive for Nipah virus. She is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Perinthalmanna, prompting health officials to take preventive action and raise alert levels.

The woman was admitted to the hospital a week ago with Nipah-related symptoms, including fever and convulsions. Health Minister Veena George said here on Thursday that emergency surveillance measures were being imposed to prevent the spread of the virus.

The source of the woman's infection remains unclear. Health officials started investigating possible links to consuming local fruit as she has limited outdoor exposure.

Health officials are tracing the woman's contacts from the past week to prevent potential spread. Initial relief came as seven high-risk individuals closely connected to her tested negative for Nipah on Thursday.

The district administration has advised people to wear masks in public to prevent the spread of the virus. Restrictions have been imposed within a three-km radius of the woman's residence in Valanchery municipality.

District Medical Officer R. Renuka said people should avoid eating fruits partly eaten by birds and bats. Fruit-eating bats have been found to be the main carrier of Nipah virus.

3 Greyhounds commandos killed in ambush by Maoists

A patrol team launched a search operation in Nugur forest of Telangana to unearth IEDs; a group of 35 to 40 Maoists waiting in ambush triggered landmines and resorted to heavy gunfire

P. Sridhar
MULUGU

Telangana Panchayat Raj Minister D. Anusuya consoling the bereaved family members of one of the three slain commandos.

Three junior commandos of Greyhounds, the anti-Naxal force of Telangana police, were killed and an Assistant Assault Commander (AAC) of the elite force was injured in an ambush by Maoists in the Nugur forest area near Penugolu village of Telangana's Mulugu district on Thursday morning.

The deceased commandos were identified as Vadla Sridhar, N. Pavan Kalyan and T. Sandeep.

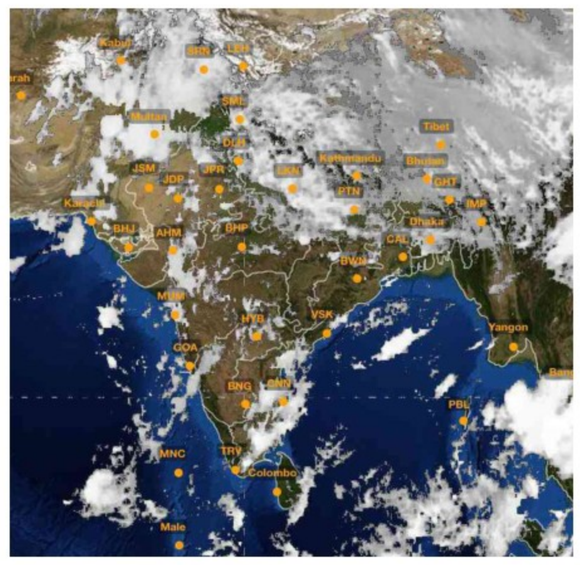
The Greyhounds unit, which was part of a patrol team comprising Mulugu police, launched a search operation in Nugur forest area on Wednesday night to unearth the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by Maoists and defuse them. The search operation was launched in the wake of the recent statement given by Maoists stating they had planted bombs in the area, warning locals against movement, the police said.

The patrol team was searching the area around 6 a.m. on Thursday when a group of 35 to 40 armed Maoists waiting in ambush triggered landmines and resorted to heavy gunfire targeting the search party. The Maoists stopped firing and ran away when the police party fired back in self-defence, police added.

Three junior commandos succumbed to bullet injuries on the spot. The injured AAC was shifted to Hyderabad for treatment. His condition was stated to be stable.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.0	27.0	Kozhikode	33	36.5	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	33.0	23.1	Kurnool	—	38.9	26.5
Aizawl	—	32.3	20.5	Lucknow	7.7	38.3	21.5
Allahabad	—	37.8	25.2	Madurai	0.5	38.1	24.6
Bengaluru	—	32.8	22.4	Mangaluru	—	34.2	25.4
Bhopal	—	31.7	22.6	Mumbai	32	32.6	20.6
Bhubaneswar	—	37.6	26.8	Mysuru	—	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	36.8	23.4	New Delhi	—	37.3	24.6
Chennai	—	35.3	28.1	Patna	—	38.3	24.8
Coimbatore	0.8	36.0	23.4	Port Blair	—	32.0	25.8
Dehradun	—	34.9	21.7	Puducherry	—	34.8	25.5
Gangtok	—	24.0	14.3	Pune	—	34.5	24.3
Goa	—	36.0	28.0	Raipur	—	38.8	26.3
Guwahati	25	31.4	22.4	Ranchi	—	36.4	22.2
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	—	24.5	16.0
Hyderabad	—	36.2	23.5	Shimla	1.4	25.2	16.0
Imphal	—	30.3	21.3	Srinagar	—	25.0	16.6
Jaipur	—	34.5	26.7	Thiruvananthapuram	6	33.1	23.7
Kochi	—	33.4	25.6	Tiruchi	—	36.9	24.6
Kohima	—	20.3	16.0	Vijayawada	—	38.0	27.5
Kolkata	—	38.0	26.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.7	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	105	12	113	108	
Bengaluru	8	3	17	37	121	
Chennai	16	18	35	74	63	
Delhi	25	119	51	189	221	
Hyderabad	7	81	31	64	67	
Kolkata	8	28	15	86	91	
Lucknow	8	53	17	92	174	
Mumbai	5	51	64	28	48	
Pune	14	49	67	44	49	
Visakhapatnam	9	39	29	52	88	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Congress appoints Sunny Joseph as Kerala PCC chief

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Thursday appointed Sunny Joseph, MLA, as the new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, engineering a significant restructuring in the top echelons of the party's State unit.

The AICC also attempted to strike a caste, religious, and demographic balance in choosing other top office-bearers. It appointed Adoor Prakash, MP, who hails from the backwards class Ezhava community, a significant electoral bloc, as the United Democratic Front (UDF) convener.

The AICC's line-up change trended towards the party's younger demographic. It appointed A.P. Anil Kumar, MLA, a Congress leader from the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) community, as one of the three KPCC working presidents.

In a seeming nod to the underlying factional equations in the party in Kerala, the AICC appointed P.C. Vishnunath, MLA, a close

Sunny Joseph

associate of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, and Shafi Parambil, MLA, supposedly proximate to the Leader of the Opposition V.D Satheesan, as KPCC working presidents.

Mr. Joseph represents the Peravur Assembly constituency in Kannur district. He replaces party veteran K. Sudhakaran, widely reckoned as the party's strongman from Kannur and Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s bugbear in volatile north Kerala politics.

Mr. Joseph has found common cause with the Church leadership in championing the livelihood issues of largely Christian settler farmers. He had controversially advocated culling and consumption of wild boars, which farmers claim pose an existential threat to Kerala's "cratering" rural economy.

Speaking to reporters in Kannur, Mr. Joseph said Mr. Sudhakaran was among the first to offer support.

Short shrift

The AICC also seems to have given short shrift to Mr. Sudhakaran's protestations of a conspiracy to upstage him in the KPCC and objection from a section of party leaders to appoint Mr. Joseph to the top post.

At a stroke, the AICC hopes to end months of often rancorous speculation within the party's rank-and-file about Mr. Sudhakaran's removal from the top post. It feels that the innuendo about a power wrangle in the KPCC provided sensational grist to political opponents to portray the Congress as a divided house in Kerala.

The AICC also sought to placate Mr. Sudhakaran and his supporters by taking the arguably rare step of nominating an outgoing KPCC president as a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum to Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/108/2025 Dated: 11.04.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
1) Bagalkot-Kudchi	Rs. 51,32,69,598/-

new line project: Proposed construction of ROB at Ch: 35068 in lieu of LC No. 1 as 1x18m Composite girder (Railway portion) +2x18.46m PSC Girder and U Type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches. **2)** ROB at Ch: 36593 in lieu of LC no.2 as 1x24.0m composite girder +2x18.46m PSC Girder and U type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches between Khajjidoni and Lokapur stations. **3)** ROB no 107 A at Ch: 38173 as 1x18m composite girder (Railway portion) +2x 18.46m PSC girder and U type retaining wall + CC block wall in approaches between Lokapur and Yadawad stations. **(Tender Ref. No: ROB107 A-LC-1-2-BGK-KUD)**

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
08.05.2025 (15:00 Hrs)	**22.05.2025 (15:00 Hrs)**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer / Construction / Works / Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/95/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICES
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.: 10-2025-SrDENC. Name of Work:** Execution of flash but welding by MFWP with 52 Kg & 60 Kg rail at various locations under Sr.DEN/C/SUR section. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs 3,17,82,878.77 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 3,08,900.00 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months **Maintenance Period:** NIL. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 02.06.2025 को15.00 बजे तक **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 02.06.2025 को 15.30 बजे. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**
DRM (Works), Solapur
खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है SLP-47

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division, LPSC CAMPUS
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru-560008.
Ph No: 080-25037203, 25037214
Date: 08.05.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following work.

Name of work	**Implementation of LED based lighting in facilities at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru.**
Tender Notice No	**LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2020/E/MI/002/ 2025-26 Dt: 08.05.2025**
Estimated amount	**₹ 19.28 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**03 Months**
Sale Period	**From 08.05.2025 to 16.05.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 38,560/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**
Sd/- Head, CMD, LPSC (B)

Government of Karnataka
Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere
No.EE/RWS& SD/DVG/AE-1/MVS O&M/2025-26/131
Dated:- 05/05/2025

Short term E-Procurement Tender Notification
Tender is invited through e-procurement for the MVS (O&M)Work of Honnali Taluk in Two cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDW & S Division Davanagere on behalf the Governer of Karnataka from registered Contractors in PWI) and also registered in e-Portal cell Item rate tender as per standard bid documents KW only through e-Procurement. In order to enahance the transparency in the tendering procces and hence there will be no phyical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on Dated:13/05/2025 at 5.00 PM. For further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website http// kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Name of work:- (1) Operation and Maintenance of Multi village water supply scheme to Kulambi and other 14 villages in Honnali Taluk, Davangere District
Estimated Cost (In lakhs) :-121.00
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/50/ ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
Sd/- Executive Engineer RWS Division, Davanagere

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. NIT/81/25/ **Dated 06.05.2025**
On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division, invites e-tender for the following items:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Due Date	Due Time	Tender Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
1	81251120A	02/06/2025	10:30	00	66980

Description :- Driver display unit, Model No. HMI-O-10-TS DCE 4522, BT Part No. 3EST000235-7 010 For BT make propulsion 3-phase locomotive. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]
Tenderer, Please Visit IREPS website at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Note: In controversial condition English text version will be considered certified.
Sr. Divl. Materials Manager
S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur
CPR/10/45

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intends to enter into a Joint Development Agreement with (1) **Sri. C.R. Rajanna,** son of late. Sri. D.P. Ramaswamy, (2) **Smt. Subba lakshmamma,** wife of Sri. C.R. Rajanna (3) **Smt. Abhitha Praveen,** daughter of Sri. C.R. Rajanna, (4) **Smt. Shilpashree,** daughter of Sri. C.R. Rajanna and (5) **Smt. Rashmi Shri C R,** daughter of Sri. C.R. Rajanna ("Owner") for development of the property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder, hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property. The Owner represents and warrants that the Schedule Property is their absolute property. The Owner represent that they have neither conveyed nor have entered into any Agreement of sale/Memorandum of Understanding nor have entered into any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/ transfer/ development/ assignment of developmental rights with respect to Schedule Property and further represent that they have not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Property in any manner and apart from them there are no other person/s, firm or company have any sort of right, title or claim over the Schedule Property. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) within (14) days from the date of this Notice with the undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of residential converted land bearing Survey No. 14 measuring 29.8 guntas situated at Chikkadasarahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded on.
East by: Remaining Land in Survey No.14
West by: Land in Survey No. 11/2
North by: Road
South by: Remaining Land in Survey No.14
SATISH.R ADVOCATE
No.68, PH-2, TLVA, Electronic City PH-1, Bengaluru- 560 100
Mb No.9886720139
Date: 08/05/2025
Bengaluru

DIRECTORATE OF AVIATION
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Directorate of Aviation, Odisha wishes to fill in purely temporary contractual post for existing and upcoming Aviation projects & state owned Airports as well as for regular operation of Directorate of Aviation. Indian Nationals who meet the requirements stipulated herein may apply for the following posts on *a purely Contractual engagement /temporary engagement Basis (*Contract Period: two years *)* which may be renewed subject to their performance and as per the requirement.
- Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Airport Management & Operations and to Defence personnel.
- Number of vacancies given below is indicative and may vary as per operational requirements.

Sl No.	Post	Vacancies	Remuneration per Month (Rs.)	Essential Educational Qualification and Experience
1	Director of Aviation	1	₹2,50,000 /-	Graduate/Postgraduate in any Discipline preferably Aviation, Engineering, Business Administration, Public Policy, or a related field with 15+ years in aviation, Airport operation, compliance, PPPs, procurement.
2	Deputy Director - Operation and Protocol	1	₹2,00,000 /-	Graduate/ Post graduate in Aviation Management/ Engineering/ Public Admin with 10+ years in operation, infrastructure, ARFF.
3	Assistant Director - Business development & Flight Operation	1	₹1,50,000 /-	Bachelor's in any discipline / Finance / Business / Science (MBA preferred) with 8–10 years working experience in Aviation, operation , finance , PPPs.
4	Senior Executive-MIS	1	₹50,000 /-	Graduate along with Diploma in Computer or equivalent certification with more than 5 years working experience with Government (preferably aviation)
5	Accountable Executive	2	₹60,000 /-	Graduate in any Discipline / Engineering / Science with SMS/ DGCA certificate (preferred) with an 5–10 years experience in airport operation / safety.
6	Terminal Manager	2	₹50,000 /-	Bachelor's Degree in any field from a recognized University with more than 10 years of experience in airport operations, passenger handling, or facility management (Retired aviation personnel from Civil or Armed Forces will be given preferences)
7	Safety Manager	2	₹50,000 /-	Bachelor's Degree in any field from a recognized University with more than 10 years of experience in airside operations/ safety. (Retired Aviation Personnel from Civil or Armed Forces preferred)

AGE : Age of the candidates (35-60) YR as on 01.05.2025.
PLACE OF POSTING :
O/o Directorate of Aviation, Odisha, BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar - Director of Aviation, Deputy Director of Aviation (Operation & Protocol), Assistant Director of Aviation (Business development & Flight Operation) and Senior Executive-MIS. **Airports of Odisha** - Accountable Executive, Safety Manager & Terminal Manager.
GENERAL INSTRUCTION :
Interested candidates are requested to submit their detailed CVs with cover letter, self-attested certificates (degrees, aviation experience, achievements) and two recent passport size photos via Speed/Registered Post or email (**transcivilaviation@gmail.com**) by **06.06.2025.**
* Application after due date shall not be entertained. * Only short listed candidates will be contacted for Interview.
* Director of Aviation, Odisha reserves the right to increase/decrease or stop recruitment process without assigning any reason.
* Candidates are advised to visit the official website of the Commerce and Transport Department at **https://ct.odisha.gov.in/** to obtain detailed information about the aforementioned vacancies. Queries may be submitted via the provided email address
ADDRESS :-
Directorate of Aviation, Government of Odisha, Old Terminal Building, B.P.I. Airport, Bhubaneswar, Pin- 751020, E-mail:- transcivilaviation@gmail.com
Sd/ - Officer on Special Duty
Directorate of Aviation,Bhubaneswar
JJ-10 **OIPR-38001/11/0029/2526**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal Mode Only)
KPTCL invites Bids for the following works:

No.SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(07)/25-26/336-38 Date: 06.05.2025
1) Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-2, Dated 01.10.2024** for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV HAL-BWTC-1&2 (HAL-K.B.Halli & HAL-Bagmane – GTRE) D/C Line between Tower number 5 & 6 in Jagdeesh Nagar by providing an intermediate tower (66kV DD + 0, NBT, KPTCL Design) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

No.SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(12)/25-26/339-41 Date: 06.05.2025
2) Bid Enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/ EE(O)/AEE-1/23-24/EPR-29, Call-7, Dated 03.02.2024** for the work of increasing Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1 & 2 [Hebbala- L.R. Bande & Hebbala- Banaswadi tapped to pottery road] double circuit line between tower no. 06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T. Nagar by providing 02 Nos of 66kV "DC+6" NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

The bids will be received through kpp portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.05.2025.**
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore – 42
Tel: 080 – 25581238
www.apsbangalore.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: TEACHING AND NON TEACHING STAFF
TEACHING POST ON ADHOC: PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CANDIDATES QUALIFIED IN AWES CSB/OST EXAM AND CTET/TET

Sl.No	Post & Subject	Qualification Required
1	**TGT** – English, Science and Social Science.	Graduate in the subject and BEd with min 50% marks in each.
2	**TGT** – Computer Science	Graduate in the subject (BTech/BSc in Computer Science) and BEd with min 50% marks.
3	**PRT** – Physical Education	Graduate in Physical Education / BPEd or DPEd with min 50% marks. **(Female candidates preferred)**
4	**PRT** – Hindi	Graduate with BEd/2 yr Dip in Elementary Edn (DElEd) with min 50% marks in each. Preference will be given to candidates having Graduate with Dip in Elementary Edn (DElEd)
5	Nursery Teachers	Experienced & Qualified to teach all subjects in Pre-School (Nursery/ LKG/UKG). **Qualification:** PUC/ class XII with National Teacher Training Course or 2 year Dip in Elementary Edn (DEEd) with min. 50% marks in each. **Age:** 25 to 40 years for fresh candidates and 55 years for experienced candidates (5yrs and more experience).
	NON TEACHING POST ON CONTRACT/ADHOC	
6	Librarian	B.Lib. Science or Graduate with diploma in Library Science from recognized institute and computer literate with three years experience.
7	Asst Librarian	B.Lib. Science or Graduate with diploma in library science from recognized institute and computer literate.

Eligibility: (a) Computer Literacy is mandatory for all the posts. (b) For Sl. No. 1 to 4 preference will be given to candidates qualified in AWES CSB/ OST and CTET/TET exam **(c) Selection Process – through Interviews only for short listed candidates.** (d) NO TA/DA admissible for interview (e) Proficiency to teach in English is mandatory. (e) Salary is as per AWES norms. (f) For details visit school website. (g) **Download Application Form** from school website: www.apsbangalore.edu.in (h) **No Application will be accepted via e-mail.** (j) **Enclose Demand Draft for Rs. 250.00 favoring ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL.** Submit **filled in Application Form super scribed on the envelope mentioning the post applied for ("APPLICATION FOR LSB – MAY 2025 FOR THE POST OF _____") along with all documents by Courier/Post only addressed to the Principal, Army Public School, K. Kamaraj Road, Bangalore-560042 on or before 17 May 2025. For any clarification contact: 080-25581238.**

Finding support

India must pressure Pakistan by sharing evidence of the terror trail

The international reaction to India's strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan has been one of concern, but muted and non-recriminatory, indicating that for most world capitals, India's actions in response to the Pahalgam attacks were more or less expected, and even understood. While there have been calls for restraint and resolution through dialogue and diplomacy, there has been little action taken by any country to bring about much pressure to avert the strikes. This can be chalked up to New Delhi's briefings to envoys, and calls by the Prime Minister, Ministers and the National Security Adviser to counterparts around the world through this crisis, that began with the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22. New Delhi's mature messaging has been that India is targeting terrorists that it hoped Pakistan would, especially after the "barbaric" nature of the Pahalgam attack. The Indian Air Force's operations on May 7, on targets identified with terror groups, were precisely planned, with India's assurance that no civil, economic or military locations would be hit. It was also impossible to escape the symbolism – details of the operations were delivered by two women officers of different faiths, sending out an image of progressive, pluralistic and resolute nation.

With further operations overnight, it is clear that tensions continue to rise. The U.K., the U.S., Russia, and the UN have reached out to New Delhi and Islamabad to try and defuse tensions, and the arrival of the Saudi and Iranian Foreign Ministers in India indicates some of those apprehensions. The government must be careful that its well-prepared response thus far is not derailed by an unplanned escalation, especially one provoked by Pakistan. While Pakistan has fewer friends, it is not without allies such as China, Türkiye and Malaysia, all of whom have backed its call for an "independent investigation", and the government would do well to keep its global message reasoned and rational. It could also offer to share evidence on the terror trail at the UN and other agencies in order to bring more pressure on Pakistan to act against the groups responsible. In doing so, New Delhi must avoid the pitfalls of being "hyphenated" with Pakistan, allowing bilateral matters to become internationalised, or needing mediation. To that end, the government may consider, if it has not already, opening a channel of communication, as the NSA had with Pakistani interlocutors, to de-escalate tensions after the misfiring of an Indian missile into Pakistan and to forge the LoC ceasefire agreement in 2021. While New Delhi's messaging, of fighting the scourge of terrorism, will always find it unequivocal support in every part of the world, an all-out war with Pakistan in an unstable neighbourhood is counter-productive and in no one's interest.

Caution and optimism

The FTA with the United Kingdom should not elbow out India's farmers

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom marks a strong step towards securing India's bilateral ties in an increasingly fragmented global trade environment. The key highlight for India is that 99% of its exports will attract no duties. Apart from being hailed by business leaders, industry associations representing sectors such as engineering goods, apparel, and gems and jewellery – each among the top Indian exports to the U.K. – have expressed strong optimism for future trade growth. Engineering exports, for example, are expected to nearly double to $7.55 billion by 2029-30, according to the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India. Overall bilateral trade is expected to double to $120 billion by 2030. The other major win is that Indian workers temporarily working in the U.K. and their employers will be exempt from making social security contributions for three years. This is likely to ease the hiring of Indian workers in the U.K. The FTA also eases the movement of professionals and investors, which should go some way in reviving India's flagging foreign direct investment levels. On the flip side, India has agreed to cut its tariffs on 90% of the tariff lines imported from the U.K., with 85% of these to be reduced to zero tariff within a decade. While the reduction in automotive tariffs is unlikely to meaningfully change the price-conscious behaviour of Indians, the slashing of import duties on whiskey and gin will increase competition in India and perhaps slow the ongoing premiumisation trend.

Although the Modi government has been quick to criticise the FTAs signed by the UPA for putting India at a disadvantage, some of its own FTAs have faced the same issue. The India-UAE CEPA (2022), for example, has seen India's trade balance worsen over the years. The FTA with Australia, too, has not resulted in gains for Indian exports. Indian farmer organisations – opposed to the U.K. FTA since talks began – are up in arms over the reduced tariffs on lamb and salmon and other edible products. Here, too, the government must act to ensure that India's farmers, already in a low-income, low-margin situation, are not elbowed out. Then, there is the fact that trade experts agree that the India-U.K. FTA will be the template for future agreements with the EU and the U.S. India must be careful here. While the U.K. is a relatively small trading partner, the EU and the U.S. deals – when they happen – will have a more significant impact. India has already cut import duties on several food and auto products in line with U.S. demands. With a less than 2% contribution to global exports, Indian manufacturing needs to be helped, not undermined.

Eighty years on, 'never again' is sounding hollow

Priyanjali Malik

writes on politics and international relations

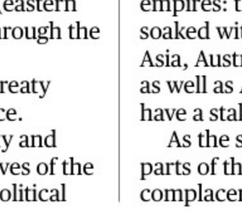
As conflict once again darkens horizons in the subcontinent, West Asia, North Africa and eastern Europe, Europeans are commemorating 80 years since the guns fell silent over Europe and the world's most destructive war began to wind down. On May 8, 1945, as news of Germany's surrender spread, crowds surged onto the streets of European cities in spontaneous gestures of thanksgiving and relief. In the decades that followed, that outpouring of relief has been commemorated as Victory in Europe (or VE) Day. Yet, Europe, though free, was shattered and bankrupt. After the war, the task of rebuilding Europe went hand in hand with efforts to prevent another war starting on the continent. 'Never again' was the watchword.

From dates to memory

Eighty years on, 'never again' is beginning to sound somewhat hollow. The contrast in the way that this major anniversary of Nazi Germany's surrender is being commemorated in Russia and western Europe is telling. Indeed, the fact that the same event is celebrated on both sides of the former Iron Curtain on two different days suggests that the peace of May 1945 was tenuous. Tensions between the wartime allies of Britain, France and the United States on one side, and the Soviet Union on the other, meant that Stalin refused to accept the ceasefire signed by Germany in Reims on May 7 at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force (led by General Eisenhower). This was to come into force at 11.01 p.m. the following day. Stalin instead insisted on a second, grander, surrender in Berlin (then under Soviet control) the following evening, by which time President Harry Truman, General Charles de Gaulle and Prime Minister Winston Churchill had already formally announced Germany's surrender. When this document was signed in Berlin, it was already May 9 in Moscow. Hence the discrepancy in dates over essentially the same surrender.

As with the difference with dates, so too with memory. It is an article of faith in Russia that the USSR's contribution to defeating fascism is discounted by its former allies. Estimates vary, but Soviet casualties are thought to be 26 million, including 11 million military deaths in what Moscow calls the Great Patriotic War. This was 10% of the entire Soviet population. Stalin was also bitter about the delay in opening a second front in the fighting against Germany to draw away some German troops after Hitler's invasion in 1941. Less often acknowledged in these accounts is that Moscow changed sides halfway through the war, when Hitler double-crossed Stalin. Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact on August 23, 1939, which contained a secret protocol dividing Poland and the rest of eastern Europe between them. A week later, Hitler invaded Poland from the west and the Soviet army moved in on eastern Poland 16 days after that. The German and Soviet occupation of Poland was brutal, with mass transfers of population. It is estimated that Poland lost 20% of its pre-war population. Thereafter, the Red Army moved into the Baltics and Finland. In these circumstances, perhaps it is unsurprising that trust was thin on the ground.

The 80th anniversary of VE Day has passed, but, with it, the ghosts of war are returning to Europe



The commemorations

As with the history, so with the commemorations. Moscow's Victory Day (a national holiday) has grown into a massive military parade that celebrates Russia's latest weaponry – a great patriotic spectacle rather than an occasion of remembrance. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the parade has acquired additional significance, and this year will include troops from other countries. It will be attended by guests, including China's President Xi Jinping.

Russia's erstwhile allies of that war observed VE Day rather more sombrely, with the focus on thanksgiving and honouring the few remaining veterans who served in the war. And of course there is the spectre of conflict against Russia hanging over the continent – a continent that started two world wars and has enjoyed an unprecedented era of peace for 80 years.

After the Second World War ended, America underwrote Western Europe's renewal (eastern Europe being under Soviet influence) through the dual approach of the Marshall Plan for reconstruction and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for external defence. President Truman described the security and prosperity provided by both as 'two halves of the same walnut'. There was an expressly political element to the American financial support to industrialise in a way that pushed the 17 States of southern and western Europe into ever closer economic and political union. It is testament to the success of this political project that when Germany's Bundestag voted in March to remove limits on defence spending, the rest of Europe breathed a collective sigh of relief.

U.S. President Donald Trump's contradictory messaging on Ukraine and his refusal to reiterate full-throated support for NATO, including support for Article 5 of the NATO Treaty, has thrown Europe into a panic.

European leaders are in full agreement that Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has moved from being a threat to the world order to being a direct threat to Europe. In French President Emmanuel Macron's words, Mr. Putin is 'an imperialist who seeks to rewrite history'.

An air of insecurity

And so Europe is rearming. Key European NATO members including Britain, France and Germany, are preparing for an orderly American exit from NATO. The European Union has proposed a defence fund, relaxed curbs on defence spending and published its first ever defence strategy. Several member states have advised their citizens to stockpile emergency survival rations for 72 hours. Poland and the Baltic States (all bordering Russia) have withdrawn from the landmine treaty. Almost all states are raising defence spending.

This backdrop provides little room for celebration. The insecurity might also excuse to some extent the utter insularity of the commemorations in Western Europe – outsiders watching these might be forgiven for believing that the war was a purely European affair. Of course it was not. This was a war between empires: the fields of Europe and north Africa are soaked with the blood of people from Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Caribbean as well as America and Europe. And so, we all have a stake in how Europe settles its differences.

As the shadows of conflicts darken different parts of the world, there is no room for complacency.

Remembering the war, reminiscing forgotten Indians

Raja Karthikeya

is currently working on a book about how individual decisions in the face of adversity impact communities

Eighty years ago, on May 8, 1945, the Second World War officially ended in Europe with the surrender of Nazi Germany in Reims and Berlin to the armies of the Allied powers. It is a day celebrated as Victory in Europe (VE) Day, but passes unnoticed in India where the war years (1939-1945) are largely remembered as the finale of the struggle for independence. Hence, it merits recalling that Indians never eschewed their responsibility to the world, neither in war nor in peace, as the lives of two unsung Indians testify.

Born in a poor family in Uyyuru in Andhra Pradesh in 1899, Kolachala Sitaramaiah's academic brilliance earned him a rare opportunity to study abroad. After paying his way to the United States as a coal stoker on a steamship, Sitaramayya earned Masters' degrees from Chicago and Yale universities in chemistry as well as three patents. However, the impact of the Great Depression in 1929 made him question the inequities of capitalist society. In a bold move, he migrated to the USSR in the 1930s and set out to work in petrochemical research.

From the frontlines to the laboratory

His life took a turn when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union. The naked ambition and racism in Nazi propaganda repulsed Sitaramaiah. Convinced that the USSR was literally what stood between the fast expanding tyranny of fascism and his motherland, India, he volunteered to move to the Soviet frontlines. He was however recognised and pulled out of the recruiting line by an officer who said Sitaramayya's brain "was needed as a weapon, not as a target".

Soviet tanks in the early days of the Second World War faced severe technical problems. Sitaramayya threw himself into research and to develop kerosene-based fuels and specialised lubricants for Soviet tanks which improved their manoeuvrability and performance in sub-zero conditions. In no small part due to his efforts, at the Battle of Kursk in 1943 – the deadliest tank battle in history – Soviet T-34 tanks took on and outperformed the much-feared Panzer and Tiger tanks of the Nazis. For the first time in the war, a ground offensive of the Nazi juggernaut was halted.

Victory in Europe Day is also a moment to recall the genius of scientists such as Kolachala Sitaramaiah and the heroism of soldiers such as Idris Hasan Latif during the Second World War

Embarking on a military career

Two hundred miles from Vuyyuru, a young man from an aristocratic family of Yemeni descent in Hyderabad left a life of privilege to join the Royal Indian Air Force in 1941. Indian pilots like Idris were initially assigned by the British to fly outdated biplanes on patrols along the restive North West Frontier. But after the Battle of Britain attrited the Royal Air Force, Indian pilots including Idris were moved to Britain to prepare for the counter offensive – the eventual D-Day landings in Normandy. By 1944, the German Luftwaffe lost control of Europe's skies. Idris was then deployed to Burma. He flew the Hawker Hurricane in humid skies under a merciless sun to strafe Japanese army columns and fend off lethal Japanese "Zero" fighters. Flying relentlessly out of short, muddy landing strips in damp mosquito-infested jungles, he fell gravely ill but would not leave his squadron.

At the end of the war, Sitaramaiah was awarded Soviet honours. His research into motor oils laid the foundation for chemmotology or tribochemistry – the field of science that deals with chemical changes induced in materials through mechanical energy. Based on his observation of incendiary munitions during the Second World War, he spent his later years researching the properties of the fourth state of matter, plasma, which were crucial to achieving controlled nuclear fusion. When he passed away in 1977, the then Indian Ambassador to the USSR (and later Prime Minister of India), I.K. Gujral said, "We bid goodbye to a great scientist. A great son of India...and a son of mankind."

Idris, the soft-spoken young pilot, received British accolades in the VE day celebrations in London in 1946. At the time of Partition, his brother decided to move to Pakistan and asked Idris to join him. Idris refused point blank, saying he would always stay in the land where his forefathers were buried. He brushed aside his brother's reasons for the move by saying, "what does religion have to do with nationality?".

A thorough professional, passionate flyer and a patriot, Air Chief Marshal Idris Hasan Latif, PVSM became the 10th Chief of the Indian Air Force in 1978. In the years that he mentored me, one of ACM Latif's fondest memories was of a visit to Normandy when he was India's Ambassador to France (1985-88).

The India-France defence relationship that is now celebrated with the Rafale fighter jet of the Indian Air Force owes no small part to the memories of the crucible that was the Second World War.

Every man to the wheel

Victory in Europe Day is not just a celebration for Europe. It is an occasion to pay homage to the millions across the world, including India, that suffered economic hardship and even famine, to enable that victory. It is a moment to recall the heroism of soldiers such as Idris Latif and the genius of scientists such as Kolachala Sitaramaiah who fought a brutal war for liberty without expecting glory or recompense. It is a time to remember that every individual, no matter how humble and no matter where they may live, can shape the course of all of history. In the words of SriSri, a contemporary poet that both these heroes may have read, "I too lent an insolent voice, to the roar that shook the heavens!"

The writer is the grand-nephew of Kolachala Sitaramaiah

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's operation

In India's Operation Sindoor, countless personnel and professionals have played their part: from intelligence analysts who have tracked targets for weeks, to drone pilots who have operated their missions under extreme stress, to the naval forces who maintained strategic positions off the coast, ready for escalation if necessary, to, finally, the Army and the Air Force too. To Pakistan, the message has been made clear: India's threshold for tolerance has shifted. Inaction is no longer the default. And to the world, this has been a reminder that India, when pushed, moves with calculated force, not chaos. It is not a celebration of war, but a celebration of deterrence — the kind born not from provocation, but preparation.

This is an operation that will go down in history as a mission carried out with iron resolve. To every armed forces personnel, this is your moment. And the nation thanks you.

K.J. Haroon Basha,
Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu

India has struck at terror bases inside Pakistan, but a real question that needs to be asked is whether India has really succeeded in hunting down those responsible for the Pahalgam attack. The operations so far have achieved their purpose — decimating certain terror camps that were detrimental to peace in Kashmir and India.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

The first step to minimise escalation is for both sides to avoid playing to the gallery or taking a position for political one-upmanship. Operation Sindoor has achieved its limited objectives from the Indian point of view. It is for Pakistan to accept that terror attacks emanate from its soil.

Wiser counsel should prevail upon India's neighbour. Pakistan needs to reflect upon what the Mahatma said: "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

A.V. Narayanan,
Chennai

As expected, India's mobilisation of countermeasures following the massacre in Pahalgam has culminated in strong military action. This must serve as a lesson to Pakistan against nurturing terrorist elements on its soil, despite global pressure to take credible action against the UN-designated terrorists roaming free in that country. Pakistan's sympathisers would do well to educate that country about the new global situation and advise it to behave. Ratcheting up the rhetoric of war will not help anyone, and definitely not Pakistan which is facing economic distress and insurgency in some parts.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Operation Sindoor not only signals a new chapter in India's counter-terrorism doctrine but also marks a strategic shift in India's military response to terrorism, combining surgical precision, multi-service coordination and symbolic messaging. This is diplomatic and tactful action taken by India to expose Pakistan's status as a rogue nation which actively promotes and patronises terrorism worldwide. India's assertive retribution to the Pahalgam attack is only a first salvo of a seemingly long-drawn-out battle.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

It is time for Pakistan to cease its support for terrorism and understand that further aggression will lead to punishment. A strong message must be conveyed: India's patience is not weakness. We will take all measures to ensure our national security.

Lawrence Vadukut,
Thrissur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is social media defining self-worth?

PARLEY

Meghna Singhal

Clinical psychotherapist from NIMHANS and parenting coach

Sannuthi Suresh

Programme co-ordinatior, healing and support services, Tulir Centre for Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse

The recent death of a young entrepreneur, who reportedly took the extreme step after she lost followers on social media, is sufficient reason for us to pause and assess the role of social media in our lives.

There is no doubt that social media is here to stay and has a huge role to play in our lives. By holding up a world that seems perfect, and fickle with its devotion, social media can take a toll on mental health, particularly that of youngsters. On the other hand, the Netflix series *Adolescence* dragged us willy-nilly into a world of teenagers that adults thought they understood but were actually far off the mark from. So, is social media defining self-worth? Meghna Singhal and Sannuthi Suresh discuss the question with **Ramya Kannan**.

Do you think social media is changing how people form their identity? If so, in what ways?

Meghna Singhal: Yes, absolutely. I think social media is not just a platform anymore. It has become a mirror and, sometimes, like a magnifying glass, I think, which judges young people and the way they are seen and shaped and scrutinised. Identity formation is such an important process that happens at this stage, but the problem is that identity is no longer being formed in the quiet privacy of our bedrooms or classrooms. It is being performed, it is being edited, and it is being posted. The question that many young people are asking is not who I am, but what version of me will get the most approval. That is pretty tricky and scary because the lines between authentic self-expression and a very algorithm-driven self-curation are blurring.

Sannuthi Suresh: I agree. Additionally, we must know that for young people, these are not actually separate. The spheres they are navigating between social media and their own selves and their world, they are all one thing. Unlike for a lot of us who were born and started lives without social media being so inherent in our lives, it is melded into their daily existence. Of course, it is changing how they form an identity. They are basically being dunked into an arena where everything is about presenting yourself in a certain way, but there are no spaces to be able to reflect or think about what any of this means.So yeah, I worry a lot.

Social media influencers are usually accused of creating this plastic, happy world, where likes and a growing subscriber count are the primary gratification. Is this right?

MS: I think in many cases, yes, this is true. But I wouldn't say it's just the influencers who are guilty. I think the entire ecosystem rewards this performance, this show, and punishes vulnerability. A lot of the so-called influencers do play a very high-stakes game, and the algorithm does favour these glossy aesthetics over gritty truth. Even truth doesn't sell unless it's packaged right, and that is a very big distortion. So, yes and no – influencers are guilty, but I think it's the entire ecosystem, and influencers are just a symptom.

SS: There are also a lot of child influencers online now. There's this show right now on Netflix, *Bad Influence*, which talks of influencers who are children, in some ways, also pushed by their parents to put up different types of content online, including YouTube. Here, primary gratification can become follower count because it's connected to your parent feeling that if you're doing well online, it means that you have more followers. I feel it's even more dangerous when you have an adult who's using a child to become an influencer. I wouldn't say that influencers are the only ones guilty of doing this, but everyone is trying to create aspirational versions of the world.

How exactly do these online trends of perfect images influence body image or self-expression, particularly of children and youngsters?

SS: I remember this whole trend at one point where thigh gaps were a thing; basically, it was about having really shapely thighs, but also a gap between the two thighs, and this led to a lot of young people wanting to get the thigh gap. And then it moved to some other body feature flaunted by celebrities and influencers. It was scary for me to see, even when I was speaking to a young person who is a teen, the minuscule attention to their face and the fact that the left side doesn't match the right side, for instance.

> We as parents and educators need to learn their language, listen to the contexts they use it in, and we have to stop translating it into our own fears. A better question may be: What part of you feels most seen when you like a post, when you share your own post?
> **MEGHNA SINGHAL**

MS: I am reminded of all my adolescent clients, who have a very distorted body image, and they're in therapy because of it. This is also at the core of a whole lot of eating disorders. They tell me, logically, though they know this is an airbrushed kind of reality, it still influences them. There's a lot of internalised shame, and what starts off as inspiration becomes very shameful, you know, when they are not able to achieve it. Another trend that caught on was the 'girl morning routine', which took over Insta reels – promoting rigid schedules and criticised by psychiatrists because it was unrealistic.

Is it possible that children leverage their access to resources to push and achieve this ideal body image?

SS: How far will they go? I don't think anybody can answer that, but the whole point is that the ideal itself keeps shifting. Someday it's the thigh gap, and someday it's that punishing morning routine and someday it's fruit juice. A few years back, the blue whale challenge went viral, and it was all about completing a series of steps, which ultimately had the player taking their own life. A lot of people were succumbing to it. So, how far will we go? I don't think there's an answer to that.

MS: Blue Whale was one of those trends where it kept pushing you to prove that you could be daring, with no one discussing the underlying aspects of insecurity or pain or suffering. None of those were being discussed and are not being discussed. So children are encouraged to present themselves as alpha male or sigma male, and ultra sassy if you are a girl. There is no dialogue, no facilitation, no conversation around what it means to be that, and the implications of this trend.

Can parents keep tabs on the social media use of teens? More importantly, how do they make the right sense of what they're doing online?

SS: The truth is you can't really keep tabs on the social media use of a teenager. We need to accept that as parents or adults. You don't have control right now. In *Adolescence*, you can see the vacuum that these young people are in, with almost no adult conversation in their lives. How has that vacuum been built? I think that's an important question to ask. Young people are spending a lot of time online today, and I feel there has to be some way to close that vacuum of communication. We are also guilty of dumping young people into this sea of information without giving them any idea about what authoritative information is. It is about us taking the initiative to talk more, spend more time, and hang out with them in general.

MS: I don't think keeping tabs on the social media use of teens is such a good idea at all; it is a very surveillance kind of perspective. Whereas I think what we need to do is shift from surveillance to establishing a connection. Monitoring social media, when we do that as parents, it comes from a place of fear, and it actually backfires. What we need is parents coming at their children from a place of curiosity and trust because young people speak a very different language, as shown in *Adolescence*. Also, did you know children have Finsta accounts – fake Instagram accounts – that they keep hidden, we have no idea they use. So, we as parents and educators need to learn their language, listen to the contexts they use it in, and we have to stop translating it into our own fears. A better question to ask may be: What part of you feels most seen when you like a post, or when you share your own post? Having different conversations instead of seeing everything as rebellion is a definite starting point. I think we need to start seeing these young people from their own lens as well, only then will we be able to bridge the gap.

(Here is a list of helplines that can help people in emotional or mental distress: newsth.live/suicidehelplines)

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Cost of documenting people's stories of resilience, hope

From security guidelines to bureaucratic red tape to emotional toll, reporting the Pahalgam attack came with quite a few challenges

Peerzada Ashiq

Kashmir has remained a challenging beat for a reporter for over three decades now. The fact that over 20 local journalists lost their lives in the line of duty only indicates the danger of reporting from and about Kashmir. The recent Pahalgam terror attack once again posed multiple challenges to reporters on the ground, both physically and emotionally.

A day after the attack, our team left early in the morning for the attack site of Baisaran, located in Anantnag's picturesque Pahalgam, which was known more for Bollywood shoots. Multiple checkpoints were set up on the way to Pahalgam to search, frisk and check the identities of commuters. Alert security paraphernalia following any major incident is a norm in Kashmir, and reporters follow all the security guidelines as access is granted to the attack site.

However, there was a shift in the security forces' approach towards the Press this time. Around 42 km from Pahalgam, Press vehicles were stopped by the security forces at the Khanabal bridge, the only main surface link, over the Jhelum river, to the terror attack site. We were given one option: "return to Srinagar". There were clear directions that neither tourists nor journalists should be given access to Pahalgam. One can understand the decision to deny entry to tourists, but a bar order for journalists remains inexplicable.

Forced to leave behind our vehicle, we hitchhiked on a two-wheeler and decided to drive through village after village on dusty and dirt lanes to avoid the highway. However, we were again stopped at Yanier, 20 km from the attack site.

This time, the message was delivered to us more forcefully: journalists are not allowed to visit Pahalgam for the next two days. "Leave the spot as soon as possible," the security men guarding the main road said.

Adamant to cover and document people's stories of trauma, resilience and hope, we decided to stay back till evening. Instead of two-and-a-half hours, it took us 10 hours to reach Pahalgam and then arrange meetings with the saviours and first responders and document their stories of valour and courage.

It was never this difficult in Kashmir to cover the aftermath of an incident, especially where people and eyewitnesses joined hands to condemn the violence against unarmed civilians. Even after two weeks of the incident, there is no formal statement made by any Minister or the civil administration or the security agencies on how many civilians were killed or injured in the incident. It's with the official records accessed unofficially that the numbers could be reported on that day. It's this approach that gives rise to speculation, exaggeration, and even under-reporting of the magnitude of the event.

The hardest part of the reporting was documenting the harrowing details of how male tourists were asked to step aside by the terrorists and were shot from close range in front of their children, wives and family members, who were left wailing and crying for help. Penning each case emotionally drains a reporter. Many times, it benumbs. The incident may be over, but the statements of victims and the imagery it left behind keep haunting the minds of reporters for a long time.

Reporting from Kashmir has seen different phases since the 1990s. It was highly dangerous at the peak of militancy when several journalists died in targeted killings, were kidnapped and faced parcel bombs. While it has always been risky to report from the ground, after 2019, journalists' struggle is of a different kind: access to security officials for confirmation. Except for the elected political class that is available, top security officials and bureaucracy, reporting to the Raj Bhawan, remain reluctant to furnish the details the public has the right to know without any confusion or misrepresentation.

The more we create an information blackout, the greater the chances of misreporting. Reporters without official access to information cannot fight the menace of misinformation and disinformation.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK | Bridge over water

People disembarking from a ferry use a bamboo bridge on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Guwahati on Wednesday. The water level in the river has been rising following incessant rainfall in many parts of Assam and other neighbouring States in the past couple of days. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1975

Cambodians Moved from Cities to Work in Farms

BANGKOK. May 8. Millions of Cambodians have been shifted from Phnom Penh and other cities apparently to work in the fields to stave off a looming food crisis, according to foreigners stranded in the French Embassy for a fortnight.

Many of nearly 600 foreigners, who came to the Thai border last weekend after a gruelling four-day journey, said their most striking impression of the "new Cambodia" was its emptiness.

They also told harrowing tales of their time in the Embassy—of shortages of food, water, sanitary facilities, of families split up, of slaking thirst by drinking water from air-conditioners and stemming hunger by skinning and eating a cat.

But they had no information to support directly the U.S. intelligence reports that there had been mass killings since the liberation troops' take-over in Cambodia on April 17.

They said even hospital patients, including bed-ridden war victims, were pushed, wheeled and carried out of Phnom Penh following a Khmer Rouge order to evacuate the city soon after its capture.

The foreign evacuees said Phnom Penh was emptied in a matter of days. Other towns they drove through on the way to the Thai border were almost deserted. Saffron-robed monks were soon at work in the field.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 9, 1925

Colour Bar Bill

SECOND READING PASSED - AN ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE

CAPE TOWN. May 6. By a small majority of eleven votes, the Colour Bar Bill passed its second reading this afternoon after an acrimonious debate, and now goes to the Select Committee. In the course of his speech in summing up the debate, Mr. Bayers, the Minister for Mines, declared that he had no intention to offend Indians and, if the Committee could find a formula satisfactorily expressing the intention and meaning of the Bill without using the specific word "Asiaties," he would welcome such a formula.

From Page One

India hits back after intercepting Pak. strikes

Speaking at an event, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had always played the role of a responsible nation, but cautioned that if anyone tried to take advantage of its restraint, they would face "quality action". "No limit will become an obstacle in protecting India's sovereignty," he said.

The systems from the Indian air defence network that came into action on Thursday morning included the S-400 Triumf very long-range air defence systems from Russia and the indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, among others, it has been learnt. Sources in the know said military targets in Karachi, Lahore, and Rawalpindi were among those hit.

The Defence Ministry reiterated that India's response under Operation Sindoor was "focused, measured and non-escalatory" and also that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted.

Giving details of the developments of Thursday morning, the Ministry said Pakistan tried to engage a number of military targets in northern and western India – Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj – using drones and missiles. "These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid and Air Defence systems. The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from a number of locations that prove the Pakistani attacks."

On the Indian response, the Ministry said the Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan.

On the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), the Ministry said Pakistan had increased the intensity of its unprovoked firing across the LoC using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. Sixteen people, including three women and five children, were killed in the Pakistani firing.

CRPF companies

A government official said more than 100 companies of the CRPF – over 10,000 personnel – were being sent to the Jammu region. The personnel have been drawn from training and reserve battalions and will be posted in the Jammu region primarily.

At least 100 killed in operation: Rajnath

"He (Mr. Modi) was not present in the last meeting. Maybe he believes he is above Parliament. We will ask this question at the right time, right now we don't want to criticise anyone," Mr. Kharge said.

Addressing presspersons after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that Mr. Singh had told the gathering that the government could not share the technical details of Operation Sindoor as it was an ongoing operation.

Clarify rumours on downed planes

Several Opposition leaders – including Mr. Kharge, AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, RJD's Prem Chand Gupta, CPI(M)'s John Brittas, Shiv Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut, NCP (Sharad Pawar)'s Supriya Sule, and the AAP's Sanjay Singh – urged the government to respond to the news reports published in many international publications about Indian aircraft being shot during the operation.

According to sources, Mr. Kharge said that one of the reports, attributed to a French intelligence officer, suggested that a Rafale jet was shot down. He asked the government to clarify what is the "actual position"; if it was propaganda, then the government should share what steps are being taken to counter it, he said.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, echoed Mr. Kharge's view on the absence of the Prime Minister. During the meeting, it is learnt that he said that the PM's absence sent a "negative message". He added that the government should have briefed the leaders. Mr. Gandhi also underlined, like many other leaders, the necessity of ensuring government support for the families of people who have lost their lives in the ongoing cross-border firing. He was the only leader to reiterate the Opposition's demand for a special session on the ongoing conflict.

Economic isolation

Mr. Owaisi told reporters that India must work towards economically isolating Pakistan. "The government must press both the U.S. and U.K. to impose sanctions on Pakistan. The government should ensure that Pakistan is put on the FATF grey list, so that their funding is stopped," he said.

"The government should also lobby to ensure that The Resistance Front, which is said to have been responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack, is banned by the United Nations," Mr. Owaisi said.

Mr. Brittas held that, since the Defence Minister has said that India has achieved its "intent and objectives", it should take "appropriate measures to de-escalate". Recalling that Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Maulana Masood Azhar had been released by India, he urged the government to now press for his deportation. He also urged the government to take an all-party delegation to Kashmir, to express the country's solidarity with the suffering of the people of the region.

War against terror, not religion

DMK leader T.R. Baalu said that it should be remembered that this is a war against terror and not against any religion.

'Caste census not a political issue to BJP, but part of a philosophy of social justice'

Party has stayed true to its ideological roots by prioritising harmony and empowerment, says Union Minister of Education; the biggest beneficiaries of the Modi government's welfare policies have been the poor, which includes Muslims as well, and there has been no discrimination, he adds

INTERVIEW

Dharmendra Pradhan

Nistula Hebbar

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan says that the BJP has always had a consistent approach towards social justice. Elaborating on the party's historical and ideological approach to empowerment, particularly concerning Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Mr. Pradhan says the Modi government has never discriminated on the issue of welfare and the decision to undertake a caste census is part of this commitment. Excerpts:

It is being said that the decision to enumerate caste within the decadal Census was taken under compulsion.

This is not correct as the BJP has always believed in social justice, and we have our own, very consistent approach with regard to these aspirations of society. This is not a political issue for us. In the initial days, in 1967 when the Jan Sangh was part of the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal (SVD) government, Shri Karpoori Thakur had, in Bihar, initiated steps for social justice and reservation. In 1979, the Janata Party government constituted the Mandal Commission, and we were part of the Janata Party then. In the 1990s, we supported the then Janata Dal government in their decision to implement the Mandal Commission recommendations. As far as political leadership is concerned, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to Kalyan Singh, Uma Bharti, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Mohan Yadav, Keshav Prasad Maurya, myself, Bhupender Yadav, Hansraj Ahir, Annpurna Devi, are the biggest cohort in terms of OBC empowerment in leadership post-Independence. It was under Atal*ji* [former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee] that a Ministry for Tribal Affairs was created, in 1999. Compared to this, the Congress and Nehru [former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru], during

PTI

the Constituent Assembly debates opposed reservation and affirmative action. The biggest proof is his letter to Chief Ministers. Putting in abeyance the Kaka Kalelkar report, the subsequent Congress government [under former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi] attempted to derail the Mandal Commission report too.

Subsequently, during the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations, [former Prime Minister] Rajiv Gandhi was the most vocal critic. Rajiv Gandhi was also the one who used objectionable language against a sitting Chief Minister, Anjaiah [of Andhra Pradesh]. So those who have a limited understanding, especially Rahul Gandhi, should not attempt to explain why our government took this decision.

There is a view that a caste census will lead to fragmentation of society...

Not at all. For us development and welfare is a matter of priority, and the RSS from the beginning has been an advocate of social justice. Since the 1980s, then RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras spoke of *roti-beti ka vyavhar* [sharing meals and inter-caste marriage], and to this day, in our organisations we have people from *sarva samaj* [society at large]. Modi*ji* himself brought in reservation for the economically weaker sections in the General Category, so therefore when I say that we have an approach to social justice, this too is part of that.

What do you see as the political implication, looking at what happened in Bihar, Karnataka and Telangana after their caste surveys?

Here I will make a difference between what happened in Bihar and, later, in Karnataka and Telangana. Both in Karnataka and Telangana, welfare was not the priority for the survey, rather it was politically driven which is why there is a difference of opinion within the Congress itself, especially in Karnataka. In Bihar, for the caste survey, we too were a party to it. It was done for welfare, not political aims. We know that Muslim communities are also there among Backward and Extremely Backward Classes. If you see in the last 11 years, the biggest beneficiaries of the Modi government's welfare policies have been the poor, which includes Muslims as well, and we have never discriminated on the issue of welfare.

Who brought in the Sachar Committee report, and which were the State governments found wanting in terms of welfare measures? The government of West Bengal, then headed by the Left Front, who speak incessantly on social justice, they received the most negative remarks, followed by Congress-led States.

When we say we have a distinct philosophy we speak of *samarasta* [harmony], not confrontation. Some parties have the conception of social justice as being that of confrontation. Other parties limit it to the families of their leaders.

The BJP made a person from the OBCs Prime Minister, and the galaxy of leadership from Backward Classes that BJP has created is unmatched, certainly the Congress cannot match it. This is a result of a consistent stand. For those who say that there will be tension between castes after the census, this is not the first time that caste is being counted.

BJP MP's 'ludicrous' remarks not worth contempt action: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Any attempt to spread communal hatred must be dealt with an iron hand, says the top court

The Supreme Court has found the "ludicrous" comments made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against the court and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna not worth the trouble of initiating a contempt of court action.

After a Bench headed by the Chief Justice heard the Waqf law case, Mr. Dubey had accused Chief Justice Khanna of being "responsible for all the civil wars happening in India". He said the Supreme Court would be responsible for inciting religious wars in this country".

"There is no 'civil war' in India," a Bench headed by the Chief Justice fact-checked Mr. Dubey in its order.

Refusing to even opt for contempt action against the MP, the six-page order, dated May 5 and published on Thursday, termed his comments "absurd" though betraying, without the shadow of doubt, a desire and deliberate attempt to malign the court and its judges.

"Every commission of contempt need not erupt in an indignant committal or levy of punishment, however deserving it may actually be," the top court observed. The courts need not protect their verdicts and decisions by taking recourse to the power of contempt, the order noted.

The top court also sent a strong message that "any attempt to spread communal hatred or indulge in hate speech must be dealt with an iron hand".

CJI forwards panel's inquiry report on Justice Varma to President, PM

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has forwarded to the President and the Prime Minister the in-house committee report on allegations about the discovery of partially burnt sacks of currency notes in a gutted storeroom of High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma's earlier official residence in Delhi after a fire on March 14.

Suspicious find: Burnt pieces of currency notes among debris near the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, in New Delhi. PTI

The CJI's action paves the way for the initiation of removal proceedings against Justice Varma in Parliament. The CJI has also enclosed, in his communication to the President and the Prime Minister, the response received from the judge on May 6 to the panel report.

The move indicates that the inquiry committee of Justices Sheel Nagu, G.S. Sandhawalia and Anu Sivaraman, constituted by the Chief Justice of India on March 22 to conduct an in-depth probe into the incident, have found sufficient material for the removal of the judge, who was transferred to the Allahabad High Court after the incident.

Based on SC judgment

According to the in-house procedure, elucidated in the *Additional District and Sessions Judge versus Registrar General, High Court Of Madhya Pradesh* judgment in December 2014, the panel report is sent to the President and the Prime Minister if the judge in question refuses the CJI's advice to resign his office or opt for voluntary retirement.

The 2014 judgment had explained that the CJI would make it clear in his communication to the President and the Prime Minister that he had chosen to write to them "because allegations against the judge had been found by the inquiry committee to be so serious as to warrant the initiation of proceedings for removal".

The Constitution mandates that judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed by an order of the President after a successful motion for removal and subsequent proceedings on the grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity".

Under Article 217 of the Constitution, the motion to remove the judge must be supported by a special majority of each House of Parliament. A special majority is a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting. The same procedure of removal applies to Supreme Court judges under Article 124.

The three-member inquiry committee was constituted on the basis of a preliminary enquiry report submitted by Delhi High Court Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya recommending a "deeper probe" into the allegations.

'No country will be allowed to use Sri Lankan territory against another'

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Colombo says its involvement is aimed at de-escalating tensions, protecting regional peace

Sri Lanka on Thursday said no country would be allowed to use its territory against another and reaffirmed its non-aligned foreign policy.

Addressing the weekly media briefing, Cabinet spokesperson Nalinda Jayatissa, when queried on the government's position on the rising India-Pakistan tensions, said Sri Lanka would stay out of Indian Ocean geopolitical conflicts.

"Our territorial land, waters, and airspace will not be used by one country against another. We remain firm on this position and have communicated it clearly in the past. Our involvement is aimed at de-escalating tensions, safeguarding regional peace, and preventing terrorism," he added.

Further, Sri Lanka maintains good diplomatic ties with the two countries, and both India and Pakistan have helped Sri Lanka "from time to time", Mr. Jayatissa said. "We will follow a non-aligned stance while maintaining our sovereignty," he said.

Following the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake posted on social media platform X that he was "deeply shocked by the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 innocent lives. Just spoke with PM @narendramodi to convey Sri Lanka's solidarity & our shared commitment against terrorism. Our hearts go out to the victims' families. We stand with India in these difficult times".

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), a regional network of human rights defenders, has demanded that the governments of India and Pakistan immediately de-escalate "the current war situation". Issuing a statement on Thursday, it warned that "failing to do so will irrevocably affect people of both countries as well as the people of South Asia".

The rights body said it "vehemently condemned" India's Operation Sindoor military strikes across nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir early on Wednesday and observed that Pakistan's retaliation was "further escalating this situation".

Reiterating the need for "a credible and transparent investigation" into the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, led by the United Nations, SAHR observed that the people of India, Pakistan as well as the region must avoid "any means of war mongering".

'If Rohingya are foreign, Centre can deport them'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday observed that if Rohingya were found to be 'foreigners' under the Foreigners Act, they would be dealt with by the Centre in accordance with law.

A three-judge Bench was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Centre's power to deport Rohingya refugees. The petitioners said as persons identified as 'refugees' by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), they had constitutional protection against deportation to Myanmar.

APPEAL

Ms. Bhumika Das, in patient No. MH016180055, 6 years 9 months daughter of Mr. Purna Chandradas admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from heart disease, Levocardia, Normal Systemic and Pulmonary Venous Drainage, RA RV dilated, large PM-Subaortic VSD shunting BD, VSD does not have outlet exension, PV doming, ANN 9 MM, peak Rvot Gradient of 75 MM HG, predominantly valvar, TOF no Coronary crossing, effort tolerance and Bluish Discoloration since age of 1 and half years, has severe effort intolerance. She requires to undergo Surgical Tetralogy Repair. The estimated cost of the surgery is Rs. 5,00,000/-. Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Bhumika Das, **Our Account Details**: S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC Code:SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.Act.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No.044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile: 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our Website: www.savepoorlives.com

'Claims of govt. targeting Neelum-Jhelum project false'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pakistan's allegation that India had targeted the Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is an "absolute and complete fabrication", Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday, suggesting that Pakistan was attempting to use the claim as a "pretext" to target "Indian infrastructure of a similar nature". "I want to say that this is an absolute and complete fabrication and a blatant lie... I should note that if this kind of claim is a pretext for targeting Indian infrastructure of a similar nature, Pakistan will be entirely responsible for the consequences that will undoubtedly follow," Mr. Misri said at a special press briefing here.

He also said that contrary to reports in Pakistani and Turkish media, the National Security Advisers of India and Pakistan have not been in contact since Operation Sindoor took place on Wednesday morning.

'State funeral for terrorists': Misri slams Pak.'s link to LeT, TRF, JeM

Islamabad's links to designated terror groups exposed; Foreign Secretary shows images of LeT leader openly leading prayers for those killed in strikes on LeT's headquarters near Lahore; Opposition calls for imposing sanctions on Pakistan

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Pakistan's links to a number of UN-designated terror groups have been exposed in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, officials said on Thursday.

This not only includes The Resistance Front (TRF) that claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, but also the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Falah-e-Insaniyat-Foundation (FIF), whose leader Hafiz Abdur Rauf led prayers for the dead in Muridke, as well as Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), whose leader Masood Azhar reportedly lost several members of his family in the Indian Air Force strikes, including his brother and JeM commander Abdul Rauf Azhar.

At a press conference in Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri showed a photograph of Abdur Rauf, a U.S.-designated terrorist, leading prayers for those killed in the strikes on the LeT's headquarters in Muridke, about an hour away from Lahore. Abdur Rauf, a local cleric who openly campaigns for Pakistan to annex Kashmir, was seen in videos on Wednesday flanked by military officers, even as those killed inside the LeT/FIF complex were given "state honours", draped in the Pakistan national flag.

Abdur Rauf, a U.S.-designated terrorist, leading prayers for those killed in the strikes in Muridke, Pakistan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"If only civilians were killed in these attacks, I wonder what message this picture actually sends to all of you," Mr. Misri said, as the MEA released a photo from the funeral. "As far as we are concerned, the individuals eliminated at these facilities were terrorists. Giving terrorists state funerals may be a practice in Pakistan. It doesn't seem to make much sense to us," he added.

'Hafiz' Abdur Rauf was named a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the U.S. Treasury on November 24, 2010. The FIF, a fundraising offshoot of the LeT that claimed to be a charitable organisation, was banned by the U.S. Secretary of State on the same day, after detailed groundwork by India in the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks that led to a number of terror listings.

The ruling BJP announced that Abdul Rauf Azhar had been killed, along with several family members, in the strikes on Bahawalpur, the site of JeM headquarters. According to a note that could not be verified, Masood Azhar had named his sister and other relatives who died in the strikes, expressing sorrow over their deaths.

Rauf Azhar, the operational commander of the JeM, was the mastermind of the IC-814 hijacking in 1999, that ended with the Indian government releasing Masood Azhar, along with terrorists Omar Sheikh Saeed (convicted for killing journalist Daniel Pearl), and Mushtaq Zargar in Kandahar in exchange for hostage passengers.

Mr. Misri said that Pakistan had itself exposed its links to the TRF, which had twice claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attacks in which 26 men were killed, before backtracking from the claim. He said India had reported the TRF's activities to the UN 1267 Monitoring team on a number of occasions, adding that it was "interesting" that Pakistan insisted on omitting TRF's name from the UNSC resolution passed on April 25. India is expected to push for the UNSC to designate the TRF as a terrorist group.

During an all-party meeting in Delhi on Thursday, Opposition members called for India to ask the U.S. to designate the TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation as well as push to bring Pakistan back on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey-list.

PM stresses need for continued alertness, institutional synergy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with Union Secretaries to review the country's preparedness and inter-Ministerial coordination in light of recent developments pertaining to national security.

An official release said the Prime Minister stressed the need for continued alertness, institutional synergy, and clear communication mechanisms as the nation navigated a sensitive period. He reiterated the Centre's unwavering commitment to ensuring national security, operational preparedness, and the safety of citizens.

The review meeting comes in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians, and subsequent retaliatory strikes by Indian armed forces on Wednesday targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Security agencies have since intensified surveillance and preparedness under Operation Sindoor, which remains ongoing.

Actionable points

"All Ministries are fully prepared to respond to emerging situations," the release said, noting that actionable points have been identified by the Ministries in relation to the conflict, with institutional processes being reinforced accordingly.

The meeting discussed a range of issues, including the strengthening of civil defence mechanisms, strategies to counter misinformation and fake news, and the safeguarding of critical infrastructure.

PIB flags false claims, urges social media users to be cautious

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on Thursday cautioned against "Pakistan-sponsored propaganda" on social media and urged people to scrutinise information.

"If you encounter dubious content, especially concerning the Indian Armed Forces or any info related to ongoing situation, report it to #PIBFactCheck," it said on the social media platform 'X'.

The unit, which functions under the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, said several Pakistan-based handles were circulating an old image claiming that a Pakistani missile had hit an Indian S-400. "The image being shared is from 2023, of a fire at a military site in Moscow," it said.

It also asked users to report dubious content, especially concerning the Indian armed forces

A video shared through Pakistan-based handles, claiming that the Pakistan Army had struck posts in the Battal sector of Jammu & Kashmir killing 12 Indian soldiers, was also found to be fake. The image used is from August 2011 and it was also reported in the media in 2016, the PIB unit said.

The unit also found that Pakistan-based handles were sharing an old image claiming that the Pakistan Army had intercepted a UAV that fell in Gujranwala, Pakistan. "The image being circulated is from the Ukraine-Russia conflict in 2022," it said, referring to a related news report.

Displaced by Pakistani shelling, residents of border villages long for home and peace

Peerzada Ashiq
URI (BARAMULLA)

After Pakistani shells charred their wooden houses and belongings in the Salamabad area of Baramulla on the night of May 7-8, the residents who now live in shelters long to return to their villages.

Zareena Begum, who belongs to one of the 33 families of Silikote, a village fenced with barbed wires close to the Line of Control, has taken refuge at the Government Degree College, Uri. The classrooms have doubled up as bedrooms for these families. "Our entire village has been shifted. We were told the village was easy target and could be hit by mortars from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). We have underground bunkers but officials said it was not sufficient to protect us," Ms. Begum, who heads a family of eight, said. She is worried about the children of Silikote.

Place of refuge: Families from Silikot village along the Line of Control have been evacuated following shelling and firing by Pakistan. IMRAN NISSAR

"Every blast frightens the children. Their school is in the village and shut now. We appeal to the government to make arrangements so that we return to our homes. How will our cattle survive?" Ms. Begum added.

Adjacent to Silikote is Salamabad village, where the house of Bashir Ahmad has gaping holes drilled by mortar shells, which started raining after Operation Sindoor. "Around 2 a.m., shells started raining from PoK and the intensity only grew with each passing hour. My neighbour Dr. Bashir's house was shattered by these mortars," Nadeem Akbar Khan said.

Mr. Khan recalled the normal life residents of Uri had been leading since the 1999 Kargil war. "Life was going on smoothly. As of now, life stands disturbed. This (shelling) will not get any solution. It's poor people on both sides who die. The government should find a solution and end this hostility once for all," Mr. Khan added.

As intensity of shelling waned on Wednesday night, many women on Thursday scanned through debris and salvaged whatever they could. "This is my kitchen. Nothing has remained of it," a resident of Salamabad said, while pointing at a small room with black smoke all around on the walls.

"I have saved penny by penny to make this house. It's all gone. It's not liveable," the resident said.

According to official figures, 13 civilians were killed and 59 injured in Pakistani shelling and firing along the LoC since Operation Sindoor.

All deaths were reported from Poonch. Around a dozen houses were damaged in Kupwara and Baramulla.

OTTs asked to remove content from Pakistan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Thursday issued an advisory asking over-the-top (OTT) and media-streaming platforms, and intermediary services operating in India to discontinue Web series, films, songs, podcasts, and other media content of Pakistani origin with immediate effect.

"In the interest of national security, all OTT platforms, media streaming platforms, and intermediaries operating in India are advised to discontinue the web-series, films, songs, podcasts, and other streaming media content, whether made available on a subscription-based model or otherwise, having its origins in Pakistan with immediate effect," said the advisory.

Pakistan's military actions will be met with a 'very, very firm response': Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday said Pakistan's military actions will be met with a "very, very firm response".

Mr. Jaishankar conveyed this to his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi during the 20th India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting held here. He also hosted Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al Jubeir before meeting the Iranian delegation.

"Our response was targeted and measured. It is not our intention to escalate this situation. However, if there are military attacks on us, there should be no doubt that it will be met with a very, very firm response," said Mr Jaishankar. Mr. Araghchi had earlier called for de-escalation of tension between India and Pakistan. Mr. Jaishankar described the April 22 Pahalgam attack as a "particularly barbaric terrorist attack".

S. Jaishankar

Earlier, in a sign of quick-footed diplomacy, Mr. Al Jubeir arrived here on Wednesday night. His arrival coincided with the arrival of the Iranian Foreign Minister who was here for a day-long visit against the backdrop of India hitting terror targets inside Pakistan on Wednesday.

"A good meeting with Adel Al Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia this morning. Shared India's perspective on firmly countering terrorism," Mr. Jaishankar said. Official sources said India did not seek mediation from either Saudi Arabia or Iran.

Call with Rubio

Mr. Jaishankar on Thursday night spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and conveyed to him that India will firmly counter any attempts by Pakistan to escalate the situation.

Following the phone conversation, he underlined India's targeted and measured response to cross-border terrorism.

U.S. State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said Mr. Rubio emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation.

(With PTI inputs)

Two days of intense, substantive conversations on several critical fields at *The Hindu* Huddle

SAMI-SABINSA GROUP
Presents
THE HINDU
HUDDLE
INDIA IN DIALOGUE
Co-powered by

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a five-year pause, *The Hindu* Huddle has returned to Bengaluru as a marquee event of The Hindu Group and an ideas conclave that showcases the cutting-edge of innovation, creativity, and resolve, and the blue-sky vision of leaders across fields such as government, business, artificial intelligence, climate change, entertainment and health care.

Over two days of intense, substantive conversations that will seek to push the boundaries of human knowledge and understanding in these critical fields that are debated daily in the public discourse and across specialist platforms, the best minds from across India and the region will be present and engaged interactively with their audience in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10.

The Hindu Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group

- **Co-powered by:** Government of Karnataka, Government of Telangana
- **Associate partners:** ONGC, Presidency University, TAFE, Akshayakalpa Organic
- **Energy partner:** Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- **Realty partner:** Casagrand
- **Knowledge partner:** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
- **State partner:** Haryana government, Uttarakhand government and Meghalaya tourism
- **Luxury car partner:** Toyota
- **Radio partner:** Radio City
- **Gift partner:** Anand Prakash
- **Broadcast partner:** Times Now
- **Outdoor media partner:** Signpost India

This year, The Huddle features Chief Ministers – Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), N. Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh), A Revanth Reddy (Telangana), and Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra) – who will be speaking about critical issues of contemporary significance such as federalism, the art of leveraging coalition politics to deliver good governance, social justice, and India's journey towards becoming a trillion-dollar economy.

The Huddle will host stalwarts from India's myriad film industries such as Anurag Kashyap, Vetri Maaran, Jeo Baby, Nandita Das, and Shahana Goswami, to discuss the sweeping changes and challenges in the art and craft of filmmaking and acting.

A session on cricket with Shantha Rangaswamy, Mithali Raj, and Shreyanka Patil will trace the growth of women's cricket in India.

Sessions on health, AI, the workplace, and climate change will bring together the biggest experts of the country on stage.

Given the escalation in tensions with Pakistan, there will be a conversation on the need to balance national security with political expediency.

Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will participate in a discussion on the forces shaping subcontinental geopolitics.

In this context, *The Hindu* Huddle has emerged as the premier platform for 'India in Dialogue' that will, on an annual basis in the years ahead, continue to shape and contribute to our understanding of policies, values, and outcomes in these fields. In this regard it mirrors the deep commitment of The Hindu Group to remain at the forefront of thoughtful and transformative conversations happening across the country and the world.

INBRIEF

Nine killed, eight injured in gas cylinder blast in Bikaner

The death toll in an explosion in a gas cylinder in the basement of a three-story commercial building in Rajasthan's Bikaner increased to nine on Thursday, while eight persons were injured. Over 20 shops on the ground floor and in the basement in Madan Market were damaged in the blast. The explosion occurred at a jewellery shop on Wednesday, after which three bodies were recovered from the spot. On Thursday, five more bodies were pulled out from the rubble. A 17-year-old boy died of injuries. The explosion had led to the collapse of roof of the building's first floor, trapping people under the debris.

Six killed as helicopter with Char Dham pilgrims crashes

Six people – five women and the pilot Captain Robin Singh, 60 – were killed and one person sustained grievous injuries after a private helicopter, heading towards the Gangotri temple, crashed near the Bhagirathi river in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand on Thursday morning. The State Disaster Response Force said the helicopter owned by AeroTrans Services Private Limited was flying with pilgrims to the Gangotri temple after a visit to the Yamunotri temple.

MMR shows a declining trend, reveal latest data

The highest MMR is seen in the 20-29 age group and second highest in the 30-34 age group; the maternal mortality ratio in a region is a measure of the reproductive health of women

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

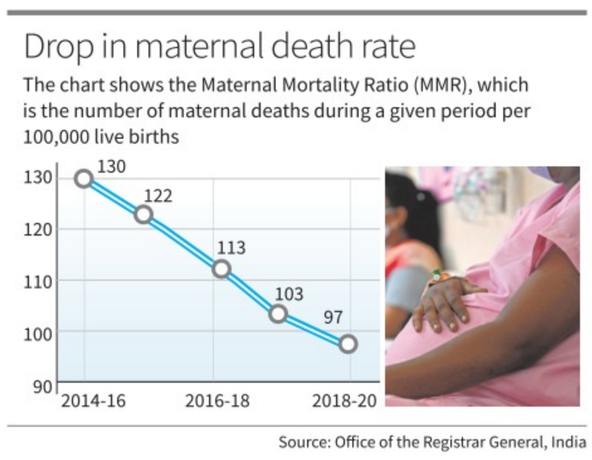
The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India declined to 93 per lakh live births in 2019-21 from 97 in 2018-20, and 103 in 2017-19, show the latest data released by the Office of the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India.

The data show the highest MMR occurs in the 20-29 age group, and the second highest in the 30-34 age group.

Several States, including Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167), Uttar Pradesh (151), Odisha (135), Chhattisgarh (132), West Bengal (109), and Haryana (106), have high MMRs.

The Registrar-General arrives at estimates on fertility and mortality using the Sample Registration System, one of the largest demographic sample surveys in the country.

The MMR is a measure of the reproductive health of women in a region.



Every day in 2023, over 700 women died of preventable causes related to pregnancy, says WHO

One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period as reported.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim at reducing global MMR to to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

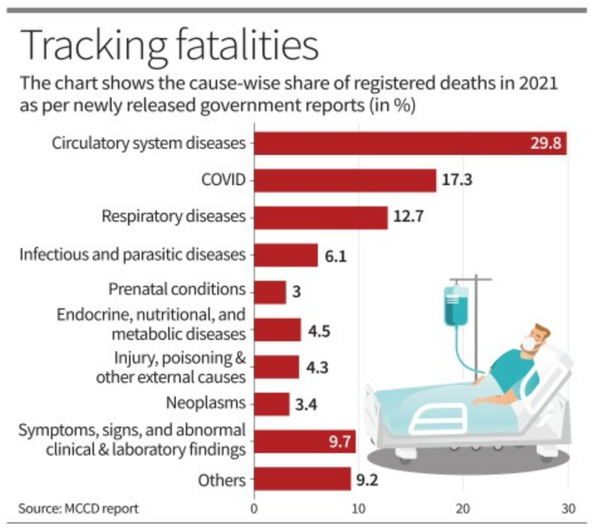
Many women in the reproductive age span die from complications during and following pregnancy and childbirth, or abortion.

"Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The data state that maternal deaths, being a rare event, require prohibitively large sample sizes to provide robust estimates.

The WHO notes that every day in 2023, over 700 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

"A maternal death occurred almost every 2 minutes in 2023. Between 2000 and 2023, the MMR...dropped by about 40% worldwide. Just over 90% of all maternal deaths occurred in low- and lower-middle-income countries in 2023. Care by skilled health professionals before, during and after childbirth can save the lives of women and newborns," the WHO said.



India recorded 21 lakh additional deaths in 2021, say RGI reports

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India recorded over one crore deaths in 2021 – the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic – which was around 21 lakh deaths more than in 2020, show two key reports on registered births and deaths published this week by the Registrar-General of India (RGI) after a five-year gap.

"In the case of registered deaths, the number of registered events has gone up from 81.2 lakhs in 2020 to 102.2 lakhs in 2021, i.e., an increase of 26.0%," the report, "Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System for the year 2021", said. In 2019, 75.9 lakh deaths were registered.

The other report on the medical certification of the cause of death in 2021, compiled by the RGI, said that deaths with COVID-19 as the underlying cause increased from 1,60,618 in 2020 to 4,13,580 in 2021, which included 2,67,363 male, 1,46,215 female, and two transgender fatalities.

In 2021, out of 10,224,506 deaths, as many as 23,95,128 were medically certified deaths, which was 5,83,440 more registered deaths when compared with those of 2020.

The report said a total of 5,74,198 COVID-19 deaths were reported in 2020 and 2021. The COVID-19 dashboard maintained by the Union Ministry of Health says that as on May 5, the total number of deaths induced by the pandemic stood at 5,33,665.

The report said that among the leading groups of causes, diseases of the circulatory system, including pulmonary ailments, constituted 29.8% of the total number of medically certified deaths, followed by deaths caused by COVID-19 at 17.3%; deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory system at 12.7%; and deaths caused by certain infectious and parasitic diseases at 6.1%.

COVID-19 was the second leading cause of death in 2021; it was the third leading cause of death in 2020.

Among the 32 States and Union Territories, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Jharkhand, and Delhi contributed significantly to the increased number of deaths registered from 2020 to 2021, the report said. The number of registered births decreased by about 0.1%, it added.

Researchers call for wider access to genetic screening for diabetes patients in India

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Scientists from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, in collaboration with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, United States, have discovered a previously unrecognised subtype of Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), and have called for wider access to genetic screening and precision treatment for diabetes patients, particularly in India.

The findings were presented to the media at a conference held at the MDRF here on Thursday.

13 subtypes recognised

MODY is a rare, inherited form of diabetes caused by mutations in a single gene, typically appearing in adolescents and young adults. While 13 MODY subtypes have been recognised to date, the newly identified variant challenges long-standing assumptions about the condition, doctors said.

Dr. V. Mohan

The study was published in the journal – *Diabetes* – of the American Diabetes Association.

Colin G. Nichols, lead researcher, Washington University School of Medicine, highlighted in the study that the LOF mutation impairs potassium channel function in pancreatic beta cells, disrupting insulin secretion.

He said the study marked the first observed switch from congenital hyperinsulinism to diabetes in maturity-onset diabetes of the young context.

Clinical implications

Radha Venkatesan, executive scientific officer, head of molecular genomics at MDRF and co-lead author, emphasised the clinical implications of this discovery. "This variant does not respond to conventional treatments such as sulphonylureas, which are effective in other MODY forms. Understanding the underlying genetic mechanism is key to guiding appropriate therapy," she said.

V. Mohan, chairman of MDRF, reiterated the importance of incorporating genetic testing into standard diabetes diagnosis. "Many patients with MODY remain undiagnosed or misclassified as having type 1 or type 2 diabetes. This discovery strengthens the case for precision diagnosis and treatment," he said. The findings are based on clinical data and laboratory analysis of Indian patients.

Centre unveils draft 'climate taxonomy' document to aid clean energy investment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

To direct investment towards clean-energy projects and infrastructure better adapted to weather threats from climate change, the Finance Ministry has made public a draft document, "Framework of India's climate finance taxonomy".

Climate finance taxonomy, the report said, is a "tool to identify activities consistent with India's climate action goals and transition pathway." The objective of this taxonomy is to encourage investment in climate-friendly technologies and activities, thus enabling India to be Net Zero by 2070 but simultaneously encouraging long-term access to reliable and affordable energy.

The taxonomy should prevent "green-washing" and be consistent with the developmental goal of 'Viksit Bharat'. The draft note follows an announcement by Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech in February.

At the COP29, lack of consensus on the definition of 'climate finance' led to disagreements.

Developing countries demand billions of dollars from developed countries in the form of subsidised technology transfer and grants to finance renewable energy development as well as strengthen their defences against climate change.

At the 29th session of Conference of the Parties (COP) in Baku, Azerbaijan, developed countries committed to only $300 billion annually by 2035 as the "New Collective Quantified Goal" when the actual requirement was $1.35 trillion and a large part of the disagreement was due to a lack of consensus on the definition of "climate finance".

The climate taxonomy document aims to classify a range of activities and sectors as "climate supportive" or "climate transition". The former include activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce emissions intensity (emissions per unit of GDP), adaptation solutions that reduce the risks of adverse impacts of climate change and, research and development needed to meet these aims. Climate supportive activities would include those that improve emissions intensity reduction in sectors where cutting absolute emissions are challenging with the available technology – this could mean in the so-called "hard to abate" iron, steel and cement sector.

Congress demands apology from Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

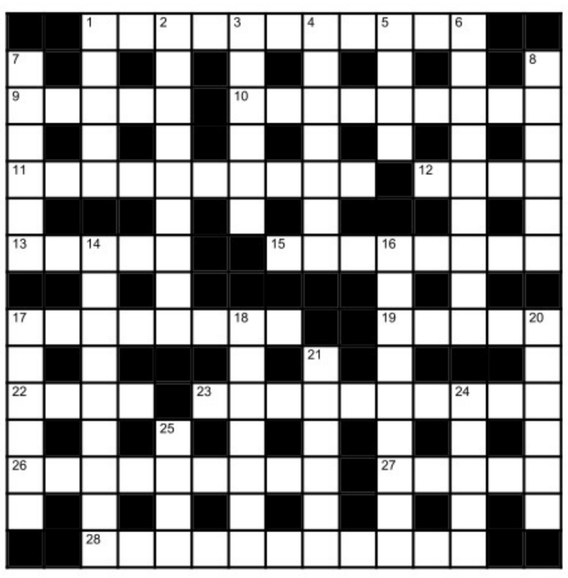
The Congress on Thursday accused public broadcaster Doordarshan of running a dangerous narrative against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and MP Imran Masood by labelling them *gaddar* (traitor) and demanded an apology from the Information and Broadcasting Minister. "The kind of pathetic, insulting and dangerous narrative being run by Doordarshan is unacceptable," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14480

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 When Cranwell wife leaves, producing hexagonal L shaped tool (5,6)
9 Boy with stiffness in leg produces airship (5)
10 Conman Charles gets a brown colour after leaving Spain (9)
11 He gets neon arrangement for megalithic site (10)
12 A small bit in radio talkathon (4)
13 Overzealous offer by god (5)
15 Look! Includes an idea to make a flying boat! (8)
17 Pasture protected by crown is most unclouded (8)
19 Many in police station making schemes (5)
22 "Skin treated" signs (4)
23 Agreement to marry and fight? (10)
26 Insipid gin is served by son in Wodehousian location (9)
27 Command for arrangement (5)
28 For example, watch man hit mice violently with ecstasy (4,7)

Down

1 Silly ignoramuses expel nurses' friend (5)
2 Perhaps, one who knows what you are saying without hearing you led repair arrangement (3,6)
3 Swiped stole (6)
4 Once again reason, "Engineers with fever protect Resistance" (2-5)
5 African flower which may be used with sago to manufacture gasoline (4)
6 It's difficult to handle what one may need to prepare stuffing for a dosa (3,6)
7 One who misuses a vehicle with the queen (6)
8 No, in America, iron's dangerous (6)
14 What to do with eggs quickly for morning meal? (9)
16 Couple of pence taken by pioneer on tour producing salami (9)
17 Ascends with cold hands and legs (6)
18 My son travels around New York, giving word having same meaning (7)
20 Certain about Utah making treatment for injury (6)
21 Space warping around far end of Castor? It's a long way to go... (6)
24 Finish university course at last to get award (5)
25 First man in madame's heart (4)

SUDOKU

	8							2
9		6	2		5	3		
	3						8	
		4			7			
1				9				5
			6			7		
	5						4	
		3	5		1	8		6
7							3	

No.SS6514 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	R	I	C	E	R	A	T	O	P	S		P	E	A
A		D		N		S		V		A		E		S
I	N	E	P	T		P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T
L		A		R		H		R		N		W		U
R	E	L	A	Y	R	A	C	E		T	A	I	N	T
A		I				L		A		P		T		E
C	E	S	S	P	I	T		T	R	A	M			
E		T		A						U		C		S
			A	G	R	A		C	A	L	L	O	U	T
B		C		E		R		L				M		O
L	H	A	S	A		S	P	O	K	E	S	M	E	N
E		L		N		E		S		T		A		E
A	L	L	A	T	O	N	C	E		H	E	N	N	A
R		O		R		A		T		O		D		G
Y	E	N		Y	E	L	L	O	W	S	T	O	N	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	5	1	8	4	3	7	6
3	1	8	6	7	2	4	5	9
7	6	4	5	3	9	2	1	8
1	4	2	8	5	6	9	3	7
8	5	3	9	1	7	6	2	4
6	7	9	4	2	3	1	8	5
5	2	6	7	4	1	8	9	3
4	8	1	3	9	5	7	6	2
9	3	7	2	6	8	5	4	1

FAITH

Ethical codes of conduct

A person should not try to harm others for his own gain. He should never compel others to praise him lavishly. On the contrary, others should come forward voluntarily to honour and admire us. Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman said in a discourse that by our conduct and behaviour, we should make others feel they would like to show us respect. A person should develop purity of thoughts. Love, grace and mercy are to be filled in a person's heart.

Saint poet Thiruvalluvar says those without affection will keep all they have for themselves, whereas the tenderhearted will even give away their bones (*Anbilar ellam* – Kural 72). Andal says that she and her friends came to see the Lord, encompassed by love and affection for Him. Chanting God's names can improve love and affection. As God resides in every being, showing warmth and care toward all is imperative.

A true devotee will not think of committing evil upon others. He will never think that he is having problems because he is sure that chanting God's name will always protect him. Vibhishana believed, and Rama appeared to him as God. Ravana failed to consider it, so the same Rama seemed an enemy and the God of death to him. Vibhishana lived with the cruel Ravana, but his deep faith in Rama saved him from danger. Rama did not want to repeat the mistake of his father Dasaratha, who had not consulted anyone in finalising Rama's incarnation. But while admitting Vibhishana from the enemy camp, Rama consulted Sugreeva and others, respecting each one's views. This shows we must be cooperative and elicit others' opinions before taking any critical decision.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,335	-0.51
US Dollar	85.58	-0.95
Gold	99,250	-1.48
Brent oil	62.61	2.08

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2285.30	-67.80
Adani Ports	1333.10	-5.10
Apollo Hosp	6851.50	-131.50
Asian Paints	2302.60	-31.50
Axis Bank	1172.20	10.90
Bajaj Auto	7724.50	-124.50
Bajaj Finserv	2006.00	-24.30
Bajaj Finance	8832.50	-154.00
Bharat Elec	307.15	-2.80
Bharti Airtel	1874.90	-21.90
Cipla	1486.80	-22.00
Coal India	385.45	2.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1148.00	-12.70
Eicher Motors	5372.50	-116.50
Eternal Ltd.	229.81	-7.09
Grasim Ind	2698.70	-1.20
HCL Tech	1580.70	17.40
HDFC Bank	1928.50	-17.10
HDFC Life	722.95	-0.95
Hero MotoCorp	3800.50	-67.50
Hindalco	620.20	-16.10
Hind Unilever	2354.90	-15.90
ICICI Bank	1435.50	0.10
IndusInd Bank	826.80	-7.00
Infosys	1511.40	3.10
ITC	430.60	-0.55
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	251.45	-4.65
JSW Steel	953.20	-12.90
Kotak Bank	2112.60	17.70
L&T	3323.90	2.50
M&M	3033.10	-86.80
Maruti Suzuki	12392.00	-241.00
NestleIndia	2340.70	2.30
NTPC	340.00	-2.05
ONGC	233.22	-5.45
PowerGrid Corp	308.25	-2.85
Reliance Ind	1407.00	1.00
SBI Life	1731.50	-13.00
State Bank	769.00	-7.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	615.80	-20.85
Sun Pharma	1767.20	-14.10
TataConsumerProduct	1116.00	-30.00
Tata Motors	682.85	2.55
Tata Steel	143.67	-2.33
TCS	3448.90	3.80
Tech Mahindra	1502.80	7.60
Titan	3369.30	30.40
Trent Ltd.	5226.50	-6.50
UltraTech Cement	11631.00	-27.00
Wipro	241.57	-2.47

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.51	85.83
Euro	96.61	96.98
British Pound	113.91	114.34
Japanese Yen (100)	59.11	59.34
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.86
Swiss Franc	103.61	104.00
Singapore Dollar	65.96	66.22
Canadian Dollar	61.58	61.82
Malaysian Ringitt	19.95	20.07
Australian Dollar	54.88	55.09

Source:Indian Bank

LG India begins work on $600 mn plant

IPO-bound LG Electronics India has begun construction on its third plant in the country at Sri City and will invest $600 million in it, the company said. REUTERS

CCI notifies new definitions to curb predatory pricing

The cost of a product or service would be assumed to be its 'average variable cost', which is the total variable cost divided by total output during a particular period, according to the notification

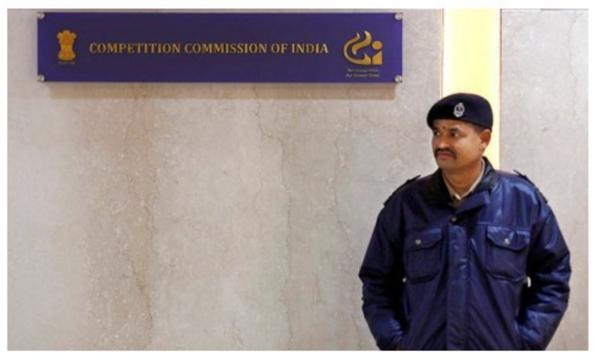
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In a further bid to check predatory pricing and ensure fair competition, the Competition Commission of India has notified new definitions for various costs it will use to judge whether a price charged by a company for a product or service is predatory or not.

According to the Competition Act 2002, predatory pricing is where a product or service is priced below its cost – which is to be determined through regulations like the one just issued – with the aim to reduce competition and eliminate competitors.

In February, the CCI had released a draft notification and had called for stakeholder comments. It is after reviewing these comments and incorporating some of the changes suggested that the final version has been notified.

According to the latest notification, the "cost of a good or service would be assumed to be its average variable cost", which is the total variable cost divided by total output during a particular period. Here, the total variable cost refers to the total cost (including everything that goes into the production of that good or service) minus the fixed cost and fixed overheads attributable to the product. However, in line with one of the stakeholder comments, the CCI decided to avoid using sector-specific definitions of cost, and instead has decided to view them on a case-by-case basis.



Conditions apply: CCI will avoid using sector-specific definitions of cost, and will view them on a case-by-case basis. REUTERS

"The Cost Regulations 2025 establish a sector-agnostic, cost-based framework that is flexible and adaptable to various industries, including the digital economy," the CCI said in a supplementary note issued along with the notification.

"Therefore, rather than prescribing sector-specific metrics, the framework allows for case-by-case assessment, enabling the Commission to consider the unique features and evolving dynamics of digital markets when evaluating alleged predatory conduct."

Crisil places IndusInd on 'ratings watch with negative implications'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In further trouble for beleaguered IndusInd Bank, ratings agency Crisil said it has placed the bank's long-term debt on a 'rating watch with negative implications'. A further worsening of the situation could result in a ratings downgrade, which would affect the bank's ability to raise capital.

"The rating action follows the recent resignations of the top two key managerial personnel of the bank as well as the disclosure that the bank's internal audit department is conducting a review of the microfinance (MFI) business to examine certain concerns, which have been brought to its attention during finalisation of accounts," Crisil said in its ratings rationale.

On March 10, IndusInd had disclosed a discrepancy in how it was accounting for its derivatives.

According to Crisil, an external agency as well as IndusInd's board-appointed independent professional firm had found that the cumulative additional hit to the bank on account of this discrepancy was between ₹1,979 crore and ₹1,959.98 crore.

"These developments will necessitate the bank to take measures to strengthen its internal financial controls which will be a key rating monitorable," Crisil added.

"Further, the induction of new senior management personnel and stability of other key managerial personnel will also be monitorable."

Crisil further said it was awaiting further clarity on the microfinance-related concerns.

INBRIEF

FMCG volume growth slows to 5.% in March quarter

The volume growth of India's FMCG industry has slowed down in the March quarter to 5.1%, driven by increased consumer purchases of small-value packs, according to the latest report from data analytics firm NielsenIQ. Volume growth is slowing across categories, and non-food segments are still outpacing food in the FMCG sector. The industry reported a volume growth of 6.1% in the March quarter of 2024. "In Q1 2025, rural consumer demand grew at a slower pace compared to Q1 2024, yet it remained four times faster than growth in urban areas, where consumption further decelerated," it said. PTI

Mobis India unveils electric vehicle battery assembly unit

Mobis India Ltd., an affiliate of Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL), inaugurated its an EV Battery System Assembly Plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai on Thursday. Situated on 8.15 acres, the plant is located near HMIL's car manufacturing facility. It has an initial installed capacity of 36,000 units per annum, which is designed to meet the growing demand for electric mobility, and is scalable to 75,000 units. The facility is expected to create 255 direct and indirect employment opportunities. High-performance battery systems will be assembled at the facility for EVs manufactured in India.

Asian Paints Q4 net falls 45% to ₹700.8 cr. on muted demand

Asian Paints on Thursday reported a 45% decline in consolidated Q4 net profit to ₹700.83 crore due to muted demand and increased competitive intensity. The company had logged a net profit of ₹1,275.30 crore in the January-March period last year, according to a regulatory filing by Asian Paints. Revenue from operations slipped 4.25% to ₹8,358.91 crore from ₹8,730.76 crore in the year earlier. During the quarter, "muted demand conditions and consumer sentiment coupled with downtrading, and increased competitive intensity impacted revenue", Asian Paints said in its earnings statement. PTI

GreenLine rolls out fresh LNG truck fleet

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd., an Essar venture and India's only green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks, said it had flagged off a new fleet of LNG-powered trucks at Chakan, Pune.

The deployment is supported by Shriram Finance Limited, one of India's largest NBFCs and the flagship company of the Shriram Group.

"This fleet expansion, supported by Shriram Finance, is a key step towards transforming India's logistics with sustainable, high-performance solutions. The trucks, manufactured by Blue Energy Motors (BEM), play a critical role in decarbonising the logistics sector and align with our vision for a greener future," said Anand Mimani, CEO, GreenLine Mobility.

The deployment is supported by Shriram Finance Limited. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

L&T Q4 PAT grows 15% to ₹15,037 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Larsen & Turbo Ltd. (L&T) reported consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of ₹15,037 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, registering a growth of 15% compared with the previous year.

The PAT included an exceptional gain (net of tax) of ₹475 crore, attributable to the partial reversal of an earlier impairment provision for funded resources in the erstwhile L&T Special Steels and Heavy Forgings Private Limited (LTSSHF) joint venture.

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹34 per equity share.

For the quarter, the company reported a consolidated revenue of ₹74,392 crore, registering a year-on-year growth of 11%. The share of international revenue during the quarter was 49%.

The company achieved a consolidated revenue of ₹2,55,734 crore for the year ended March 31, 2025, registering a substantial y-o-y growth of 16%, mainly on the back of large order book and ramp-up in execution momentum across Projects & Manufacturing businesses. International revenue during the year at ₹1,27,566 crore constituted 50% of the total revenue.

RIL bows out as race for tagline Operation Sindoor gathers pace

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The company said it had no intonation of trademarking the phrase and abided by its 'India First commitment'

On a second thought and probable advise, Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) on Thursday withdrew its application for a patent on wordmark "Operation Sindoor" – the codename of India's "precision strike" military action on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK – a day after applying for it.

The Mukesh Ambani-led company said it had no intonation of trademarking the phrase and abided by its "India First commitment".

"Reliance Industries has no intention of trademarking Operation Sindoor, a phrase which is now a part of the national consciousness as an evocative symbol of Indian bravery," RIL said in a statement.

"Jio Studios, a unit of Reliance Industries, has withdrawn its trademark application, which was filed inadvertently by a junior person without authorisation," it said. "Reliance Industries and all its stakeholders are incredibly proud of Operation Sindoor, which came about in response to a Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack in Pahalgam," it added.

"Operation Sindoor is the proud achievement of our brave Armed Forces in India's uncompromising fight against the evil of terrorism," the company stated. "Reliance stands fully in support of our government and armed forces in this fight against terrorism. Our commitment to the motto of 'India First' remains unwavering," it added. Hours after news broke about the bombings in Pakistan and PoK, RIL and five others applied for trademarking the term on Wednesday. They had applied to the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks, seeking to use the phrase in entertainment-related services, including audio and video content which could be produced as movies, documentaries and serials.

A retired Air Force officer, Group Captain Kamal Singh Oberh, and Alok Kothari, a Delhi High Court lawyer, are among the contenders after RIL pulled out. The others include Mukesh Chetram Agarwal and Jayaraj T.

While Mr. Kothari told *The Hindu* that he would give away all the profits from the movie to war widows, the retired Air Force officer said as someone who had worked in the forces and participated in operations, he would do justice to the title.

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of A.P. Undertaking)
NOTIFICATION for APGENCO e-Procurement
NIT No.610001961
APGENCO invites Competitive Bids (in Two Parts) on APGENCO e-procurement platform from Eligible Bidders for "Liaisoning and Monitoring of Raw Coal Movement and to get high GCV coal and shortage minimization, from M/s.Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to Dr.NTTPS/ Dr.M.V.R. RTPP of APGENCO".
Schedule available date and time : From 12:30 Hrs on 07.05.2025 onwards
Pre-bid Meeting date and time : 11:30 Hrs on 13.05.2025
Bid submission closing date and time : 15:00 Hrs on 23.05.2025
Pre-qualification bid opening date and time: 15:30 Hrs on 23.05.2025
Price Bid opening date and time : 12:00 Hrs on 27.05.2025
For details, visit www.apgenco.gov.in (or) https://etender.apgenco.gov.in.
DIPR 4094PP/CL, Dt:08.05.2025

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Industrial Estate Road, Thattanchavady, Puducherry - 605 009
NOTICE INVITING BID
Online bids are invited from potential bidders for Selection of System Integrators for Supply, Installation, Integration and Maintenance support for PoS Devices with Electronic Weighing Scales (EWS) & IRIS Scanner towards Automation of Fair Price Shops operations under Build-Own-Operate Transfer (BOOT) Model. The Closing date and time for bid submission is **28.05.2025 by 05.00 PM.** The terms and conditions and tender document can be downloaded from the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in** and also be viewed in **https: //www.py.gov.in** and **https://dcsca.py.gov.in.**
DIRECTOR (CS&CA)
No.100/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
252623 000395	For Rendering Services for Erection and Start-up of Proposed Tissue Machine of TNPL Unit - II including ISBL piping, Electrical & Instrumentation Works.	30.05.2025
252623 000399	For Supply of Material, Fabrication at supplier works, transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel Tanks VAT & Chutes for TM#5 of TNPL Unit - II - Phase II.	30.05.2025
252623 000427	For Supply of Chemicals and Chemicals Preparation System for TM5.	30.05.2025
252623 000397	Procurement of Native Starch for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	26.05.2025
Email	252623000395 ; 0399 ; 0427 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in 252623000397 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/1998/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

bida भिवाड़ी इंटिग्रेटेड विकास प्राधिकरण
एस-5, मंगलसिंह कॉलोनी, भिवाड़ी, अलवर, दूरभाष :- 01493-230819
ई-मेल :- bida.bhiwadi@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक :- बीड़ा/अभि./687/25 दिनांक :- 07/05/2025
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for "Construction of food court at Bhiwadi" is invited from interested bidders up to 12.00 Noon date 19.05.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in** of the state; and **https://bida.rajasthan.gov.in** departmental website.
UBN: BDA2526WSOB00014
Executive Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/25/1948 BIDA, Bhiwadi

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER PROJECT, CHHABRA
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited for 650(RVU2526SLOB00250) Two (02) year contract for hiring of 01 No. AC Maruti Swift Dzire for 16 Hrs, 05 Nos. AC Maruti Swift Dzire or equivalent Diesel/Petrol sedan car for 12 Hrs. & 12 Nos. AC Maruti Swift or equivalent Diesel/Petrol Hatchback car (Model year-2020 or later) with driver for 12 Hrs. services & 651(RVU2526WLOB00257) Annual rate contract for empanelment of transportation agency(s)/contractor(s) for transportation of pond/mound ash from ash pond/dyke of CTPP, RVUN, Chhabra to various locations of user agency(s). Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/25/1932 RVUN/PR-4190 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M-I)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-54.
No.EE(MLM)/TN/Kppp/02/2025-26 Date: 08.05.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP invites **Item Rate** Tenders from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains & other allied civil works at Ward No. 57 (64) Rajmahal Guttahalli in Block nos 30, 38_2, 39_2, 40, 62, 64 and all other SC/ST area blocks in Malleshwaram Sub division. **(INDENT7129 CALL-2). Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 105.00, EMD (in ₹.) 2,00.000/- (Others).**
2.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains & other allied civil works at Ward No. 54 (36) Mathikere in Block nos 1, 2, 5, 19, 22, 45, 71, 63, 65, 66, 69 and all other SC/ST area blocks in Mathikere Sub division. **(INDENT7130 CALL-2). Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs): 132.25, EMD (in ₹.) 2,00.000/- (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **15.05.2025 at 4:00 p.m. (2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **19.05.2025 up to 4:30 p.m. (3)** Opening of Technical bid Proposals: **21.05.2025 at 12:30 p.m. (4)** Opening of Financial Bids Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals **(will be intimated later to the successful technically qualifying bidders).**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP.

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES
(Planning Dept, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR- Ministry of Education, Govt. of India), Nizamiah Observatory Campus, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500 016, Telangana, India
Phone: 040-23416610-13, 23402789, 23416780
Email: post@cess.ac.in, Website: http://www.cess.ac.in
FACULTY RECRUITMENT
Advertisement No: CESS/Faculty/1/2025 Dated: 6th May 2025

Posts	Discipline / Specializatio	Number of Post	Category
Professor	Govt. (Public) Finance	1	OBC
Professor	Political Science/ Sociology	2	SC-1 (backlog) ST-1
Associate Professor	Political Science/ Sociology/ Govt. (Public) Finance/Health Economics/Econometrics	2	SC-1 (backlog) ST-1 (backlog)
Assistant Professor	Micro/Macro Economics with econometric applications / International Trade	1	OBC-1 (backlog)

Last date for application is 30th June 2025
For details and application form visit https://cess.ac.in/
Sd/- DIRECTOR

Kerala Maritime Board
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5)
1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building, Pipinmoodu, Sasthamangalam, PIN: 695010
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI Ref No: HOKMB-TVM/481/2025-C1 (Devp) Date: 02.05.2025
EOI for Non-Major Port Development: Ponnani Port, Malappuram
The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) is soliciting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested firms for the
Non-Major Port Development: Ponnani Port, Malappuram
The detailed document can be downloaded from KMBs official website **(www.kmb.kerala.gov.in/en/tender)**
Proposals must be submitted on or before **02/06/2025, 03:00 PM.**
Please send your queries to the email id: **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**
Sd/
Chief Executive Officer,
Kerala Maritime Board

WASHINGTON

Trump calls U.S. Fed chair Powell a 'fool' after pause in rate cuts

GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump called Fed Chair Jerome Powell a "fool" on Thursday after the central bank paused rate cuts, keeping rates at 4.25%-4.5%. He blamed Mr. Powell for acting "too late" amid tariff uncertainty. Mr. Powell said criticism won't affect the Fed's independent, data-driven decisions on inflation. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine's Parliament ratifies minerals agreement with U.S.

AFP

Ukraine's Parliament unanimously ratified a landmark minerals deal with the U.S. on Thursday, with 338 votes in favour and none against. The agreement establishes a joint investment fund for Ukraine's reconstruction, granting the U.S. preferential access to Ukrainian mineral resources and potential military aid. AP

TEHRAN

Iran denies involvement in plot against Israeli embassy in London

AFP

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday denied involvement in a plot targeting the Israeli embassy in London after seven Iranian nationals were arrested on terrorism suspicions. He urged the U.K. to engage diplomatically, calling the timing suspicious and suggesting possible false flag operations. AFP

MOSCOW

Putin, Xi rail against West as Ukraine reports truce violations

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Moscow on Thursday, ahead of Victory Day, showing defiance against the West. Russia ordered a three-day truce in Ukraine, but Kyiv reported hundreds of attacks. Mr. Xi called their ties "positive energy" against the "hegemonic bullying". AFP

Robert Prevost, first American Pope, will take the name Leo XIV

He emphasises peace, dialogue, and missionary evangelisation in his first public address from St. Peter's Basilica; Pope Francis had groomed Cardinal Prevost as his likely successor; Pope Leo XIV spoke to the crowd in Italian and Spanish

Associated Press
VATICAN CITY

Marking history: Pope Leo XIV appears on the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Thursday. AP

Robert Prevost, a missionary who spent his career ministering in Peru and took over the Vatican's powerful office of bishops, was elected the first pope from the United States in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church.

Pope Prevost, a 69-year-old member of the Augustinian religious order, took the name Leo XIV.

In his first words as Pope Francis's successor, uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo said, "Peace be with you," and emphasised a message of peace, dialogue and missionary evangelisation. He wore the traditional red cape of the papacy – a cape that Francis had eschewed on his election in 2013.

Pope Prevost had been a leading candidate for the papacy, but there had long been a taboo against a U.S. Pope, given the country's geopolitical power already wielded in the secular sphere. But Pope Prevost, a Chicago native, was seemingly eligible because he is also a Peruvian citizen and lived for years in Peru, first as a missionary and then as an archbishop.

Pope Francis clearly had his eye on Cardinal Prevost and in many ways saw him as his heir apparent. He brought Cardinal Prevost to the Vatican in 2023 to serve as the powerful head of the office that vets bishop nominations from around the world, one of the most important jobs in the Catholic Church. And in January, he elevated him into the senior ranks of cardinals. As a result, Cardinal Prevost had a prominence going into the conclave that few other cardinals had. The crowd in St. Peter's Square erupted in cheers when white smoke poured out of the Sistine Chapel on the second day of the conclave. Priests made the sign of the cross and nuns wept as the crowd shouted "*Viva il papa*!"

Waving flags from around the world, tens of thousands of people waited to learn who had won and were shocked when an hour later, the senior cardinal deacon appeared on the loggia and said "*Habemus Papam!*" and announced the winner was Pope Prevost.

He spoke to the crowd in Italian and Spanish, but not English.

U.K. government officials defend FTA with India

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The deal is the biggest trade agreement the U.K. has signed with a single country since leaving the EU. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Faced with concerns around migration and tariffs, the U.K. government found itself having to defend a comprehensive "free trade" agreement (FTA) with India, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday.

The U.K. Department of Business and Trade issued an infographic on X on Thursday, about the trade deal, titled, "Let's clear some things up", addressing issues around national insurance (social security) contributions, migration and tariffs.

"This is the biggest trade deal the U.K. has done with a single trading partner since leaving the EU," the government said in response to the criticism that the impact of the deal was marginal. The U.K. government said it had a first mover advantage in India, "a huge market where opportunity is growing year by year".

Addressing the criticism that lower tariffs were only beneficial to India, the U.K. government, in its message on Thursday, said India would cut tariffs on £400 million of U.K. goods, highlighting gin, whisky and a quota system for U.K. car exports to India.

'Never about visas'

On immigration, the statement said, "It will not be cheaper to higher Indian workers rather than British workers," emphasising that employers would still need to make National Insurance contributions and bear visa costs and the health surcharge (a payment made during the visa application process to access Britain's National Health Service).

Addressing the criticism that lower tariffs were only beneficial to India, the U.K. govt. said India would cut tariffs on £400 mn of U.K. goods

Earlier in the week, Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Vikram Doraiswami, had told *LBC Radio* that the FTA was "never about visas", neither in the period when the Conservative Party was in power and not under the current Labour government.

The Conservative Party, which is battling for space on the right with Reform UK, the nativist party that made gains in last week's local elections, was among those leading the charge against the Labour government on the trade deal.

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch, who was the U.K. Business and Trade Secretary in 2023 and 2024, accused the government of agreeing to "two-tier" taxes. Her position, however, was at odds with members of her own party, some of whom praised the deal.

Trade Minister Jonathan Reynolds made media appearances on Wednesday, defending the clauses of the deal – particularly on the sensitive issues of migration and labour costs.

Reform UK's leader, Nigel Farage, had said the trade deal had "sold out British workers".

"We have agreements of this kind with 50...50 other countries...with the U.S., Canada, Japan, South Korea, Chile," Mr. Reynolds told *Times Radio*, with regard to the clause exempting some Indian and British workers employed in the U.K. and India, respectively, from paying into their host countries' social security systems for a period of three years.

"This is not something new or novel to the agreement, it means our people pay into our system, and their people pay into their system," he said.

Prime Minister Starmer termed the criticism "incoherent nonsense" in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

New Delhi had referred to the national insurance exemption as a "huge win" in a government release.

Trump, Starmer announce trade deal

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. and U.K. had reached a trade deal, making this the first such deal for the U.S. since Mr. Trump's April 2 'Liberation Day' announcement of universal tariffs of 10% or more for all U.S. trading partners.

The U.K. government has touted this as the second big trade win for the week, following the announcement of the India-U.K. trade deal on Tuesday. However, the details of the U.S-U.K trade deal seemed hazy, with remarks by both U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Mr. Trump suggesting that the contours of an agreement – rather than a ready to sign deal – had been achieved on automobiles, steel and aluminium, aircraft, ethanol, beef and other products.

The U.K. will be able to sell 100,000 cars per year in the U.S. at a tariff of 10%, down from 27.5%

Speaking from the Oval Office, with Mr. Starmer on the phone, Mr. Trump praised the U.S-U.K relationship.

"We have a big economic security blanket .... and we feel very, very comfortable with that," Mr. Trump said. Mr. Starmer then went on to hold a press conference at the Jaguar Land Rover factory (which is owned by Tata Motors) in Solihull, in the U.K., while Mr. Trump took questions from the press in the White House.

The U.K. will be able to sell 100,000 cars per year in the U.S. at a tariff of 10%, down from the current 27.5%, both sides announced. No changes were made to the U.K.'s 2% digital services tax as part of the deal. British steel and aluminium would be tariff free – a change from the 25% tariff rate previously imposed by Mr. Trump on national security grounds. The U.K. is expected to do away with tariffs on U.S. ethanol and both countries have agreed to greater market access on beef.

"There will be no weakening of U.K. food standards on imports," the U.K. government said in a statement. This was presumably a reference to hormone-treated beef and chlorinated chicken are not permitted in the U.K.

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced that the deal would represent a new $5 billion export opportunity in the farm sector.

Israel issues strongest yet threat against Iran

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel issued its strongest threat yet against Iran on Thursday, warning it would do to it what it has done to Hamas in Gaza after an attack on Ben Gurion airport by Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Israel hit back against the Houthis' attack on its main airport on Sunday by striking the airport in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, as well as three power stations in the country.

Sport

Rishabh and Madhura make the semifinals

Sports Bureau

Individual compound archers Rishabh Yadav and Madhura Dhamangaonkar and the Indian recurve men's team kept their medal hopes alive at the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Thursday.

Rishabh will meet Mike Schloesser, while Madhura will take on Turkey's Hazal Burun in the semifinals.

The results: Recurve: Team: Men: India (B. Dhiraj, Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das) got a bye (first round), bt Kazakhstan 5-4 (shoot-off: 29-27) (pre-quarterfinal), bt Italy 6-0 (quarterfinal), lost to France 5-4 (shoot-off 26-25) (semifinal). **Women:** India (Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Anshika Kumari) got a bye (first round), lost to Mexico 5-4 (shoot-off: 27-26) (second round). **Compound: Individual:** Men: Rishabh Yadav bt Lam Ying Chung (Sgp) 145-137 (first round), bt Uday Kamboj 143-141 (second round), bt Lee Eun Ho (Kor) 145-143 (third round), bt Mathias Fullerton (Den) 147-147 (shoot-off: 10*-10, shot closer to center) (quarterfinal); Abhishek Verma bt Kao Cheng En (Tpe) 143-143 (shoot-off: 10-9) (first round), lost to Luis Lezama (Mex) 144-143 (second round); Ojas Deotale lost to Sawyer Sullivan (USA) 149-143 (first round). **Women:** Aditi Swami got a bye (first round), lost to Carson Krahe (USA) 140-129 (second round); Madhura Dhamangaonkar got a bye (first round), bt Dafne Quintero (Mex) 144-142 (second round), bt Begum Yuva (Tur) 144-136 (pre-quarterfinal), bt V. Jyothi Surekha 142-141 (quarterfinal); Chikitha Taniparthi got a bye (first round), lost to Adel Zhexenbinova (Kaz) 138-134 (second round); Jyothi Surekha got a bye (first round), bt Viktoriya Lyan (Kaz) 139-135, bt Adel (Kaz) 146-135 (pre-quarterfinal).

Indian women to play Uzbekistan in two international friendlies

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian senior women's team will play two FIFA international friendly matches against Uzbekistan in the May/ June window, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Thursday.

Matches in Bengaluru

The two matches against Uzbekistan will be on May 30 and June 3 at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru.

The Blue Tigresses, coached by Crispin Chettri, are preparing for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers, having begun their camp in Bengaluru on May 1.

India has been drawn in Group B, where in it will face Mongolia (June 23), Timor-Leste (June 29), Iraq (July 2), and host Thailand (July 5), in Chiang Mai.

Upper hand

India, which is at the 69th position in the FIFA women's rankings, has played Uzbekistan, ranked 50th, on 13 occasions.

The White Wolves have come out victorious on nine occasions, while the Blue Tigresses have won only one match.

Three matches ended in draws.

The probables:

Goalkeepers: Payal Basude, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Keisham Melody Chanu, Moirangthem Monalisha Devi; **Defenders:** Purnima Kumari, Phanjoubam Nirmala Devi, Martina Thokchom, Shubhangi Singh, Sanju, Malati Munda, Toijam Thoibisana Chanu, Sorokhaibam Ranjana Chanu, Ngangbam Sweety Devi, Viksit Bara, Hemam Shilky Devi.

Midfielders: Kiran Pisda, Nongmaithem Ratanbala Devi, Muskan Subba, Lisham Babina Devi, Karthika Angamuthu, Cindy Remruatpuii Colney, Sangita Basfore, Priyadharshini S, Baby Sana, Santosh, Anju Tamang; **Forwards:** Mousumi Murmu, P. Malavika, Sandhiya Ranganathan, Soumya Guguloth, Sulanjana Raul, Lynda Kom Serto, Rimpa Haldar, Manisha Naik, Renu, Karishma Purushottam Shirvoikar, Sumati Kumari, Manisha Kalyan, Grace Dangmei.

Head coach: Crispin Chettri; **Assistant coach:** P.V. Priya; **Goalkeeper coach:** Dipankar Choudhury.

FIFA unveils 2027 Women's WC venues in Brazil

Agence France-Presse
SAO PAULO

Rio de Janeiro's Maracana Stadium was among the eight venues announced by FIFA on Wednesday which will stage matches at the 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil.

Belo Horizonte, capital Brasilia, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador and Sao Paulo are the other host cities for the first edition of the tournament in South America.

All of the stadiums were also used for the 2014 Men's World Cup hosted by Brazil.

The final will be played at the iconic Maracana Stadium.

Ayush and Unnati in the last-eight stage

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
TAIPEI

Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda continued their impressive run at the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals of the men's and women's singles events respectively here on Thursday.

Ayush, a 2023 World Junior Championships bronze medallist, overcame senior pro K. Srikanth 21-16, 15-21, 21-17 in a hard-fought second-round clash.

The rising Indian, who had stunned All England Championships runner-up Lee Chia Hao in the previous round, will face Canada's seventh seed Brian Yang in the last-eight stage.

Earlier, Unnati, the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters champion, made short work of Taiwan's Lin Sih Yun, winning 21-12, 21-7 in just 27 minutes. The 17-year-old Indian will take on another local shuttler Hung Yi-Ting in the quarterfinals.

However, it was the end of the road for 2023 National Games gold medallist Tharun Mannepalli, who went down 13-21, 9-21 to Indonesia's Moh Zaki Ubaidillah in the second round.

The results (second round): Men: Ayush Shetty bt K. Srikanth 21-16, 15-21, 21-17; Moh Zaki Ubaidillah (Ina) bt Tharun Mannepalli 21-13, 21-9. **Women:** Unnati Hooda bt Lin Sih Yun (Tpe) 21-12, 21-7.

ON SONG

Varun joint-fastest among spinners to reach 100 wickets in IPL

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Varun Chakaravarthy completed 100 wickets in the IPL during the match against CSK. The spinner achieved the milestone in his 83rd match and joins Amit Mishra and Rashid Khan (83 matches each) as joint-fastest among tweakers. Varun has 99 wickets for KKR and one for PBKS in his solitary game for the franchise.

IN AND OUT

SA pacer Burger replaces injured Sandeep in Royals' squad

FILE PHOTO

South Africa fast bowler Nandre Burger replaced injured Indian seamer Sandeep Sharma in the Rajasthan Royals' squad for the remainder of the IPL. Left-arm pacer Burger had previously played six matches for the Royals, who have been eliminated from the race to the playoffs, in last year's edition and took seven wickets.

VENUE CHANGE

PBKS-MI match on May 11 moved from Dharamshala to Ahmedabad

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

The IPL match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians, scheduled for May 11 in Dharamshala, has been shifted to Ahmedabad owing to the closure of the hill town's airport in the wake of military action against terror infrastructure in Pakistan. The match will now be played in Ahmedabad, the BCCI said.

STUNNING TRANSFORMATION

The way Rohit adapted as a Test opener was amazing: Rahane

SPORTZPICS

I wish him (Rohit Sharma) the best. He started his career at No. 5 or 6 and then opened the innings. The way he adapted was amazing. He wanted to take on the bowlers, play with freedom. Wanted others to play with freedom. I congratulate him on a fantastic Test career — Ajinkya Rahane on Rohit's Test retirement.

Blackout in Dharamshala

Safety first: After a drizzle delayed the toss, Punjab Kings, which opted to bat against Delhi Capitals, was 122 for one in 10.1 overs when the game was called off due to security reasons after air raid alerts. Priyansh Arya made 70 (34b, 5x4, 6x6) while Prabhsimran Singh was unbeaten on 50 (28b, 7x4). R.V. MOORTHY

Royal Challengers keen to keep perfect away record

The visitor will sorely miss Padikkal, who is out with a hamstring injury; do-or-die clash for Super Giants, who have just 10 points from 11 games; the host is on a three-match losing streak

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be keen to maintain its perfect away record in the Indian Premier League this season – six wins out of six so far – and seal playoffs qualification when it meets Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium here on Friday.

With 16 points from 11 games, RCB's top-four hopes are not under serious threat. But the assurance of a spot with two matches remaining – both of which are at home – will give Rajat Patidar's men the necessary lift to go guns blazing for a top-two finish.

Injury worries

RCB will not have No. 3 batter Devdutt Padikkal, who is out with a hamstring injury. The participation of Josh Hazlewood, who sat out of the win against Chennai Super Kings because of a troubled shoulder, is still uncertain.

But in encouraging news, fiery opening bat Phil Salt, who has missed the last two fixtures, practised on Thursday.

Together with Virat Kohli's form, young opener Jacob Bethell's enterprise and a well-rounded bowling attack, RCB still looks strong. And Romario Shepherd's mindboggling batting against CSK last Saturday is sure to induce fear in opponents.

For Rishabh Pant's LSG, this is a do-or-die clash. It has just 10 points from 11 games and has lost three on the trot leading in to the contest.

Struggles

Even as middle-order bat Ayush Badoni has impressed, the struggles of Nicholas Pooran recently, and skipper Pant's all-season, have held the team back.

Bowlers under pressure

Of late, the bowling has come undone too as Delhi Capitals chased 159 with eight wickets left, and Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings raked up 215 and 236 respectively.

One more middling performance will all but guarantee elimination.

Firepower: Salt, who missed the last two fixtures due to illness, could be back for RCB. SANDEEP SAXENA

Today's match

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs. RCB

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 5

LSG 2 | RCB 3

PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by 28 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Urvil announces arrival in blistering fashion

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Days after being snubbed at the IPL auction last year, Urvil Patel slammed the second-fastest hundred in T20s, reaching the landmark in 28 balls for Gujarat against Tripura in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) at Indore.

At that time, it seemed the knock might have come a bit late. But four months later, his efforts have finally paid off.

After being drafted in by Chennai Super Kings as an injury replacement, the 26-year-old sparkled on IPL debut, smashing an 11-ball 31 against Kolkata Knight Riders in the two-wicket win on Wednesday.

His efforts earned him a place in the record books as the Indian with the highest strike rate (281.82, minimum 10 deliveries faced) on debut in the league.

Sixes galore

Urvil, who hit the maximum number of sixes (29 in six games) in SMAT last year, showed his prowess on the big stage at the Eden Gardens when he flicked the second ball he faced off Vaibhav Arora into the stands.

He followed it up with two more against Moeen Ali and one off Harshit Rana as CSK made the first six overs count, a rarity this season.

The Gujarat 'keeper-batter has an impressive domestic T20 record, scoring 1193 runs at a healthy strike rate of 172.15 from 48 games.

Urvil came into the tournament on the back of a productive domestic season and was the highest run-getter for Gujarat in SMAT (315 runs) and Vijay Hazare Trophy (333).

Reigniting hopes

In a year where CSK has been found wanting in the PowerPlay – a major reason for its early elimination – young injury replacements like Urvil, Ayush Mhatre, and Dewald Brevis have reignited hope. Though these are early days, Super Kings have added ammunition to their batting line-up, a good augury for the future.

Aggressive intent: Urvil meant business from the moment he took strike. K.R. DEEPAK

Brevis' onslaught turned the tide in CSK's favour: Hussey

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Chennai Super Kings batting coach Mike Hussey pointed out that Dewald Brevis' onslaught against Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Vaibhav Arora swung Wednesday's IPL match in favour of the visiting side.

The Australian also praised home captain Ajinkya Rahane for using his bowling resources well.

"Rahane's captaincy was first class. He pulled all the right cards at the right time. He had to attack with his gun spinners at that time. If they hadn't, Brevis and (Shivam) Dube going the way they were going, the match would have finished maybe three overs earlier.

"Tactically he (Rahane) was brilliant, but unfortunately it didn't go their way," Hussey said after CSK's two-wicket win.

Brevis plundered 30 runs off Vaibhav in the 11th over of the 180-run chase.

"That was a really important over for us to bring the runs required and the balls left a lot closer. We knew that the keys were going to be (Sunil) Narine and (Varun) Chakaravarthy, particularly on this pitch, which looked very dry.

The batters knew they had to target the faster bowlers. To Brevis and Dube's credit, they played the spinners nicely."

On KKR letting CSK off the hooks after reducing it to 60 for five, Rahane praised Brevis and Dube for their brave batting and admitted that his team scored 15 runs less due to CSK bowlers' good performance.

Rahane, however, was hopeful that KKR would be able to qualify for the playoffs by winning its remaining two away matches and garnering 15 points.

Game-changer: Brevis plundered 30 runs off a Vaibhav over. K.R. DEEPAK

INBRIEF

Rew replaces Cox in England squad for Zimbabwe Test

England has brought in batter James Rew to replace Jordan Cox in the squad for the one-off Test against Zimbabwe, starting on May 22. Cox has been ruled out after sustaining an abdominal muscle injury during the English County Championship.

The squad: Ben Stokes (capt.), Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, James Rew, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk), Josh Tongue.

Noted racehorse trainer Parvati Byramji passes away

Noted racehorse trainer Parvati Byramji passed away in Bengaluru on Thursday, reportedly after a heart attack. She won five Classics, including the South India Oaks with Magnetic this January. Parvati was the wife of trainer Darius Byramji of the legendary R.R. Byramji family.

Neville and Beckham in new Salford ownership group

Gary Neville and David Beckham are members of a new ownership group at English fourth-tier football club Salford, it was announced on Thursday. The club said the former Manchester United stars were part of a consortium which also includes a US-based businessman, Declan Kelly, and Mervyn Davies, who was a banker before becoming a UK minister in the Labour government of Gordon Brown from 2009-10.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI tri-series: Sri Lanka vs South Africa, FanCode, 10 a.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

PSG wards off Arsenal to make the final

The Gunners create a raft of chances early on only for the French team goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to have an outstanding night

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain weathered one attack after another and showed remarkable adaptability to hold off and defeat an inspired Arsenal 2-1 to reach the Champions League final on Wednesday.

Deprived of the ball possession it usually enjoys, PSG looked shaky early on but found answers by relying on counter-attacks and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to advance 3-1 on aggregate.

PSG broke the deadlock in the 27th minute from a set piece after the Arsenal defense cleared a free kick toward the edge of the area.

The ball bounced back into the path of Fabian Ruiz, who smashed a stunning half-volley into the back of the net.

Achraf Hakimi curled in a precise finish in the 72nd minute to make it 2-0 on the night before Bukayo Saka pulled one back for the Gunners.

"I said from the first day that our goal was to work hard enough to be in a position to make history – and that remains our goal," PSG coach Luis Enrique said.

Earlier, the Gunners started brightly, pressing high and recovering the ball quickly to peg PSG back in its own half.

Their dominance was quickly rewarded with two good chances. The first came when Declan Rice rose high but miss-directed his header, before Gabriel Martinelli saw his effort saved by Donnarumma.

Arsenal attacked relentlessly, overwhelming PSG on the flanks, and went close again in the eighth minute when Martin Odegaard unleashed a fierce, low drive from outside the area that forced Donnarumma into another fine save.

PSG had little choice but to wait for chances on the counterattack.

The result (semifinal, second leg): PSG 2 (Ruiz 27, Hakimi 72) bt Arsenal 1 (Saka 76) (PSG won 3-1 on aggregate).

Against the run of play: Ruiz hammers in the opener after PSG weathers an Arsenal storm. REUTERS

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Prahas' big ton helps Jupiter Cricketers Association take lead

Prahas Nairy (160) helped Jupiter Cricketers Association grab the first innings lead against Modern CC in their drawn KSCA Group I, Division II match.

The scores:

Group I, Div. II: Modern Cricket Club 339/6 in 80 overs (Pratheek 103, R. Shiv 139) drew with Jupiter Cricketers Association 343/6 in 83 overs (M. Shashank Reddy 41, Smaran Ramesh 73, Prahas Nairy 160).

Wilson Garden Cricket Club 295 in 79.3 overs (Mohammad Ibrahim Rayyan 73, Rehan Mohammed 110, Pemmaraju Piyush Praful Sai 25, K. Rakshith 3/53) drew with Jawahar Sports Club (2) 165 in 66.1 overs (Nitesh 32, Shimon Luiz 25, R. Himesh 3/30).

Vijaya Cricket Club 425 in 89 overs (Aniketh Reddy 65, Samit Dravid 49, N. Samarth 62, Sachin Shinde 69, Lavish Kaushal 37, Ketaj Nandkumar Kolhapure 35, Hari Rajiv 3/95, Madhav Bajaj 5/127) drew with Century Cricketers 206 in 67.4 overs (S. Gagan Rao 48, Aadesh Urs 25, Hari Rajiv 35, Madhav Bajaj 42, Sachin Shinde 4/69).

Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1) 86 in 23 overs (Samyak Vellalore 5/30, Akshath Prabhakar 4/38) and 287/8 in 69 overs (Amay Tejas 6, A.S. Sooraj 54, P.S. Vikram 72 n.o., Srinivasa Karthikeya 28, Samyak Vellalore 3/71) drew with Malleswaram Gymkhana 235/8 in 58 overs (R. Badrinaryanan 31, Shreyank Sagar 80, S.P. Banesh 38, Vivek Singh 4/38).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 162 in 69.2 overs (Harshit Pai 64, B. Vineeth 56, Vijay Kumark 4/13, S.K. Rathod 5/37) and 103/4 in 38 overs (Harshit Pai 25 n.o., M. Keerthi 58 n.o., S.K. Rathod 3/36) drew with Engrades Cricket Club 213 in 50.1 overs (K. Vijay Kumar 48, K. Vishnu Balaji 30, T. Chiranjeevi 55, M. Keerthi 3/60, B. Vineeth 6/69).

The Bangalore Cricketers 224 in 71.1 overs (S. Daivik 27, R. Akshay 67, J. Manoj Kumar 25, S. Vignesh 58, Ronith Iyengar 6/67) and 53/1 in 11 overs (K.B. Shreyas 33 n.o.) drew with Minerva Cricket Club 301/7 in 52.5 overs (Rushi Shetty 97, Jairam Srinivas 128, K.N. Anish 35).

Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) 132 in 43.4 overs (K. Arun 43, Shreevathsa Acharya 4/38, V. Prithvi 3/21) and 208/6 in 57.5 overs (Ansh Aima 42, Atharv Karulkar 88 n.o., K. Arun 28, V. Rohith 31) drew with Jawahar Sports Club (1) 305/6 in 62.3 overs (Amod Kaluve 61, S. Chaitanya 27, Raghuveer 67, Surya Srinivas 74 n.o., Manuveer Mahajan 3/62).

Whirlwind Cricketers 280 in 80 overs (V.L. Suraj 43, Pradyumna Srivatsa 103 n.o., Tejas Reddy 43, A.N. Pradyumna 3/44, H.P. Abhishek 4/137, H.K. Tanay Naik 3/51) drew with Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani 232 in 70 overs (Saharsh Reddy 62, Arjun Reddy 57, Aarush Mandoth 32, Sumanth 3/70).

Group II, Div. II:

Quarterfinals: KPTCL Sports Organization 189/7 in 20 overs (R. Manjunatha 96, B.S. Narayanaswamy 29, Mahaboobsab Chowdari 3/34) bt NAL Staff Club 61 in 16.3 overs (Narendra Babu 3/6).

Indian Air Force, Jalahalli 95 in 19.3 overs (Arun Ananda 29 n.o., Selvamani Murugan 3/24, A. Prabhu 3/15) lost to BEML Sports Club, KGF 96/7 in 17.4 overs (J. Karthik 25 n.o., Vikas Ranjane 5/18).

GTRE Sports Club 140/8 in 20 overs (Gautam Kumar 39, Rajeev Kumar 25 n.o.) lost to DELL Cricket Club 144/2 in 18.1 overs (Vikas Chanalia 33, Vikas Doddamani 40 n.o., N. Madhusudhan Rao 41 n.o.).

Infosys Cricket Club 115/9 in 20 overs (S. Naveen Prasad 43) bt Karnataka State Police Cricket Club 110/9 in 20 overs (Bheemaraya 25, Raghavendrahs 3/18).

Big win for Social Cricketers

Social Cricketers defeated Jawahar SC by 175 runs in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

The scores: Social Cricketers 253/7 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 79, V. Kshitij 38, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 71, Saathvik Vasisht 4/45) bt Jawahar Sports Club (1) 78 in 22.5 overs (R.K. Shwetansh 4/18).

Friends Union Cricket Club (1) 270 in 49 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 92, Aditya Jha 102, B.S. Rangasheshan 3/51, Vishal Dongare 3/40) bt Cavaliers Cricket Club 134 in 27.4 overs (V. Kiran 62, Sukruth Kukke 4/29).

Jupiter Cricketers Association 121 in 38.2 overs (Krishna 26, Saketh Hoskere 4/14) lost to Herons Cricket Club 122/5 in 36.1 overs (Anshuman Samal 29).

City Gymkhana 184 in 42.5 overs (Amogh Hegde 118 n.o., K.L. Daman Gururaj 3/21) lost to Merchants Cricket Club (1) 190/4 in 42.4 overs (Sohum Joshi 30, Siddharth Vasisht 27, Skandha Shetty 78 n.o., Y. Gagan 28).

Wilson Garden Cricket Club 170 in 47.2 overs (Nakka Manvesh Vasu 73, Reyes Raj Madhusudhan 27, Skanda 4/31) lost to The Bangalore Cricketers 172/4 in 29.5 overs (Ashith Kumar Gowda 71, A. Rishik 60).

Bangalore Occasionals 179 in 49 overs (Lohith Ambarisha 100 n.o., Prajwal Gowda 3/26) tied with Friends Cricket Club 179 in 48.2 overs (Yuuvaan Kempaiah 57, Vallabh Karthik Prasad 46, Smaran Chiranjeevi 4/43).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 347/6 in 50 overs (P. Rohit 100, Rishikesh Sharma 121 n.o., Yadalla Kushaal Krishna 37) bt Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani 231/7 in 50 overs (Harshith Raja 102 n.o., Aayan Kumar Gadanayak 34, Mohit Borar 26).

Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) 97 in 28 overs (Sumedh Bannikoppa 3/15, Rohan Vyas 3/8) lost to Jawans Cricket Club 98/1 in 11 overs (S. Rishi Harivatsa 51 n.o.).

Vultures Cricket Club 137 in 40.2 overs (Arjun Balu 29 n.o., Swayam Shabadi 28, Aarav Kapoor 3/29, Viren Seervi 3/26) bt Yankees Cricket Club 93 in 36.4 overs (M. Daiwik 34, P. Jayanth Abhiram 3/10, P. Monish 3/19, Arjun Balu 3/13).

Engrades Cricket Club 344/5 in 50 overs (Samvit Shastri 55, Ranjan Gudigar 95, L. Vishwaas Gowda 116, Nirav Bisht 40) bt Whirlwind Cricketers168 in 48.1 overs (H.S. Amogh Athreyasa 47, Anurag Kulkarni 35, Tanish Menghani 3/18, N. Kiran Kumar 3/21).

Facile victory for Silicans FC

Silicans FC defeated United Aces FC 3-0 in KSFA 'C' division football league Championship outing here on Thursday.

The results: KSFA 'C' division: Slicans FC bt United Aces FC 3-0; TAL drew with BM FC 0-0; Mysore Vijayanagar FA bt Blue Star 2-1; Universal Blue drew with Samurai Bangalore 1-1. **BDFA 'C' division:** AGORC FC drew with FC Deccan 0-0; Roots FS(KSFA) bt Sree Gajanana FC 4-1.

Shivam stars for Koramangala

Shivam scored 34 points to help Koramangala SC defeat Vimanapura SC 67-63 in the State 'B' division men's basketball championship on Thursday.

The results: Koramangala SC 67 (Shivam 34, Shashank 15) bt Vimanapura SC 63 (Nishanth 20, Rakshan 10); GST & Customs 69 (Joshua 21) bt Rajmahal BC 49 (Shishir 16, Anand 10); Mandya District 77 (Shashank Gowda 21, Amartya 21) bt Bangalore Sporting 66 (Narasimhan 21, Ayush 11); Bharath SU 69 (Akshay Prasad 25, Kanishka 19) bt IBBC 61 (Karan Aiyappa 27).